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26th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 5 October 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 108 (*continued*)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/65/1)

Mr. Khazaee (Islamic Republic of Iran): I would first like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, contained in document A/65/1. At the outset, allow me to pay tribute and express my sympathy for all of the dedicated colleagues and United Nations officials and experts who lost their lives in different nations in the past year.

I would like to limit myself to some of the major issues in the Secretary-General's report that we found worthy of mentioning. One of the most important parts of the report addresses creating a stronger United Nations. On this issue we share the vision of the Secretary-General that:

> "The Organization is more than just a collection of buildings, a sequence of meetings, a set of reports and consultations" (*A/65/1, para. 165*).

But we believe that this is one side of the coin when it comes to strengthening the United Nations. We are also of the view that the Organization stands for its commitments to the peoples of the world through its principles and programmes as endorsed and adopted by its Member States. The United Nations Charter asks the Secretariat to observe the principles and carry out the programmes in a thorough and impartial manner.

If we consider multilateralism to be at the core of the United Nations, then the United Nations should be considered as an Organization that is owned and run by its whole membership, as is well symbolized in the General Assembly. The ownership and conduct of its work are envisaged through the three main pillars of United Nations activities as clearly defined in the Charter and reaffirmed by Member States in several international agreements. Those need to be treated in a balanced manner and seen as an integral part of the Organization's agenda.

In this sense, it is expected that promoting the role of the General Assembly as the most representative policy-making organ of the United Nations will be placed at the top of the agenda of this report, owing to the need to enhance multilateralism. However, in our view, that has not received proper attention in the report, despite improvements made during the past year through the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. The Working Group approved by consensus the enhancement of the role of the General Assembly. In fact, the revitalization of the General Assembly as an integral part of the comprehensive reform of the United Nations is a dynamic and continuous process. Thus, we should remain constructively committed to this ongoing process, with a view to strengthening the role and authority of the Assembly.

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The tendency to overemphasize some areas at the expense of others will harm the equilibrium of United Nations activities and thus its image as an Organization that works for all. Regrettably, the substantive part of the report reflects the existence of such imbalance in United Nations activities in the areas of development and global partnerships to strengthen the United Nations role in the international financial and economic system in the aftermath of the crisis.

We align ourselves with the view expressed by the Secretary-General on the negative impact of the ongoing economic and food crises on human rights. In much of the developing world, national development efforts to provide a better life for the people have lagged under the weight of such crises. We believe that the response of the United Nations system to these challenges should also embrace the acknowledgment of the right to development. Furthermore, we share the report's concerns over the increasing incidents of xenophobia and discrimination against non-citizens.

On the issue of peacekeeping operations, we welcome the news that the number of United Nations peacekeeping missions is not going to substantially increase in the future and that it is time to consolidate and deepen our work on existing ones. If this prediction is to be considered as a basis for United Nations policies and action on peacekeeping in the coming years, it is incumbent upon us to make every effort to ensure that expanding peacekeeping processes in different targeted countries and regions is the result of close consultations among major stakeholders, including the General Assembly, the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and representatives of host countries.

Furthermore, due attention should be paid to the fact that all strategies and policies of the Secretariat concerning the issue of peacekeeping should be the product of an open and inclusive dialogue with the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies, especially the General Assembly and its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

It is also important to note that a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations have been created following acts of military aggression against certain nations and the illegal occupation of their lands. In that regard, all three existing United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Middle East, namely, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, were initiated after a certain regime illegally and forcibly occupied the lands of three other nations in the region.

Needless to say, the only way to lead these missions to a successful conclusion is to put pressure on the occupying Power and force it to accept the will of the international community, as reflected in dozens of United Nations resolutions, and to withdraw unconditionally from all occupied lands. This is among the main prerequisites for the establishment of a lasting and durable peace in the region.

With regard to developing new concepts in the report, we should avoid entertaining and even artificially prioritizing vague, undefined and controversial notions that are still under review and consideration by the general membership, such as the concept of the responsibility to protect or of global goods. No doubt, the international community must be vigilant not to let the horrors of mass killings and genocide of the past be repeated in the future. This should not, however, be done in a manner that prejudices the established principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the notion of the responsibility to protect needs to be further discussed and clearly defined and refined. The debates held on this notion thus far clearly indicate that there are still many questions and concerns surrounding this concept, which need to be addressed. Having said that, we cannot endorse the way this notion has been referred to in the report. We therefore expect the Secretary-General to reconsider the format of future reports, to maintain their devotion to the three main pillars of United Nations activities.

My delegation, along with many underrepresented developing countries, continues to be concerned about the failure of the Secretariat to meet equitable geographic representation goals vis-à-vis its staff, in particular in senior management positions. We continue to urge the Secretary-General to engage his Office to this end and improve the international character of the Secretariat.

Finally, we welcome the cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations, taking into

account the principles and objectives of the United Nations as enshrined in the Charter. We also call for expanding the geographical scope of such cooperation in a way that incorporates all active and willing regional organizations, including Asian regional organizations, in particular the Economic Cooperation Organization in the West Asian region.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its thanks to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for having submitted his annual report to the General Assembly (A/65/1) on the work of the Organization. We appreciate the good offices of the Secretary-General, which enabled the reactivation of the office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the Border Controversy between Guyana and Venezuela. A distinguished Jamaican, Mr. Norman Girvan, was appointed to that post to encourage dialogue on the dispute between Venezuela and Guyana over the Guyana-Essequibo territory.

Despite what is stated in the report of the Secretary-General, the global financial and economic crisis of capitalism continues to intensify. That crisis was caused by financial speculators, with the complicity of the world's most powerful Governments and the Bretton Woods institutions.

We believe that the United Nations should promote a development model based on values such as solidarity, justice, social inclusion, equality, respect for human rights and citizen participation.

Venezuela calls for the reform of the Security Council, which requires an immediate expansion in its membership to include representatives of countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Venezuela demands the elimination of undemocratic privileges related to the use of the veto, which were inherited from the Second World War and the Cold War.

Venezuela also demands that the General Assembly, as a body that is representative of all countries, reclaims its rightful role, which has been usurped by the Security Council. We also call for the direct and universal participation of all countries on an equal footing in the selection of the Secretary-General.

According to Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat "shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Organization". It is clear, therefore, that the Secretary-General should represent the entire Organization and ensure that the interests of powerful countries are not imposed on the most vulnerable. We believe that it is not appropriate to attempt to introduce into the work of the Organization agreements reached at other forums for negotiation, such as the Group of 20 or the Group of Eight.

Venezuela's aspiration is that the upcoming summit on climate change to be held in Cancún later this year will reach a legally binding and ambitious agreement that scrupulously respects the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, which some wish to ignore.

The Secretary-General states in paragraph 108 of his report that, in the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, "Important progress was achieved in building a broad political consensus that can invigorate global negotiations". He also states, in the next paragraph, that negotiations on climate change should "build on the elements of agreement that emerged from Copenhagen". Alarmingly, however, he makes no mention of the Kyoto Protocol.

We wish to recall that the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías, expressed the disagreement of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America with the undemocratic manner in which the Copenhagen Accord was adopted.

It is of concern that the report of the Secretary-General includes the concept of the responsibility to protect, all the more so if it is seen, in the words of paragraph 85, as a "prerequisite[] for the promotion of human welfare" and as "permit[ting] the realization of a stable polity". In resolution 63/308, Member States agreed to continue evaluating and considering this concept. We wish to emphasize that the concept of the responsibility to protect is still under discussion by Member States. It is therefore questionable that there already exist in the United Nations offices and staff dedicated to promoting the concept. We wonder what resolution gave the mandate for that.

The concept of the responsibility to protect is a sophisticated variant of humanitarian intervention, which has already been rejected in this forum. This

concept erodes the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Without these principles, developing countries would be at the mercy of the schemes of imperialist Powers, which seek to impose their economic, political and military interests, often by force.

The head of State of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías, has declared that

> "here is a group of countries that believe themselves superior to us in the South, to us in the Third World, to us the underdeveloped — or, as the great writer Eduardo Galeano has said, we the countries crushed as if by the train of history".

It is therefore regrettable that there are imperialist countries that believe themselves to be the repositories of moral greatness, truth and freedom, and disrespect the historical, cultural and religious truths of other nations.

The United Nations as it is today reflects the unfair and inequitable power relations that exist in the world. We have already said so. It is time to re-establish the United Nations. It is time to prevent the Organization from continuing to be a tool of powerful countries. It is time that it expresses the interests of all countries, especially developing countries.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/65/1. South Africa is of the view that the debate on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization is an apt way to start our activities in the General Assembly, as it allows us to take stock and reflect on the work we are doing as an Organization, both as Member States and as the Secretariat.

I wish to refer to the conclusion of the Secretary-General that

> "The Organization is more than just a collection of buildings, a sequence of meetings, a set of reports and consultations or even a set of principles and programmes. Fundamentally, the Organization is about its people" (*A/65/1, para. 165*).

If indeed the Organization is about its people, it should always reflect in its decisions and their implementation the interests of the people, especially the poorest of the poor.

There are many important issues highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General. But I will highlight only three, namely, the implementation of commitments, climate change and international peace and security.

We have just concluded a successful High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Summit, in which our leaders recommitted themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. In this regard, it is crucial that international cooperation be enhanced and global partnerships strengthened in order to achieve all eight MDGs by 2015. We repeat our call to all Member States to fulfil their commitments, especially developed countries.

We hear too often of very generous pledges being made, but the implementation of those commitments is lacking. Commitments and pledges are taken seriously by recipient Governments, which seriously rely on them in their programmatic efforts to deliver much-needed services to their peoples. For example, we have taken note that the report of the Secretary-General states that fewer than half of the member States of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have met their target of donating 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries.

Of equal concern to my delegation is the projected official development assistance (ODA) shortfall of $16 billion committed to the African continent at the Group of Eight meeting at Gleneagles in 2005. The Secretary-General correctly observes that, "A decade of deep commitment to reform and political and economic stability is beginning to have an impact on Africa's development path" (ibid., *para. 32*). However, the report also notes the special needs of Africa and the impact that the decline in ODA and reduced economic growth rate will have on addressing these needs and challenges in Africa and on our hard-won stability.

We cannot agree more with the Secretary-General when he states that "Africa's people need neither pity nor charity" (ibid., *para. 35*). In this relation, we need

support and tools to address the challenges that face us, not only to improve the lives of all the people on our continent but also to ensure sustained stability and economic growth. It is South Africa's long-standing position that the world cannot fully progress and achieve its potential if Africa is left behind. We remain committed to the goals and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and we will continue to promote them during our participation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

One of the major challenges also identified in the Secretary-General's report is climate change. The issue of climate change is among key issues on the agenda of this Organization. We note the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure that participation in the climate change discourse is a strategic imperative for world leaders. My delegation supports the Copenhagen Accord, which contains the elements for a political agreement within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and can serve as the basis for a dual-track negotiating process. We should build on the gains already achieved and enhance the momentum so as to arrive at a legally binding agreement at the Conference on climate change to be held later this year in Mexico.

All our efforts towards sustainable development will only have marginal impact if we cannot ensure peace and security for our people. The Secretary-General has correctly stated that the duty to maintain international peace and security through prevention, containment and the resolution of conflict is enshrined in the Charter of this Organization and is an integral part of its work. My delegation has noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Organization to assist with preventative diplomacy, including through mediation efforts and initiatives such as post-conflict peacebuilding and capacity-building, especially in Africa and the Middle East. While progress has been recorded in the efforts of the United Nations to work with the African Union in support of peace efforts on our continent, much more still remains to be done in implementing the Prodi report on Chapter VIII of the Charter.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. That resolution asserted the inalienable right of countries and peoples to complete freedom, the universal respect for human rights and the right to self determination. South Africa regrets the fact that the promise contained in the United Nations Charter and that resolution has not been fully realized in Africa with respect to Western Sahara, the last remaining colony on the continent of Africa. The people of Western Sahara are entitled to fully exercise their right to self-determination and deserve nothing less. In that regard the United Nations must play a meaningful role in ensuring that the people of Western Sahara exercise their right to self-determination.

The United Nations must continue to work towards the attainment of a lasting and peaceful settlement in the Middle East. While the first few rounds of direct Israeli-Palestinian talks held during September 2010 appeared to demonstrate a clear intention by both parties to effectively move the peace process forward, my Government has noted with serious concern that the partial moratorium imposed by the Israeli Government in November 2009 on the further construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian West Bank has not been renewed. We call on the Israeli Government to honour its previous international commitments by putting an end to all further settlement construction in the Palestinian West Bank indefinitely. In so doing, Israel would demonstrate its serious intention to bring about the establishment of a viable and fully independent Palestinian State, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognized borders. The people of Palestine have for too long had their dreams dashed by half-hearted measures and by each new peace process that fails to deliver a viable and fully independent Palestinian State.

In our view, the Organization is in desperate need of reform in order to be more effective and efficient in responding to matters relating to international peace and security. In this connection, we must continue our efforts to revitalize the General Assembly.

We acknowledge the increased cooperation between this body and the Security Council and encourage the Organization to continue to strengthen its efforts to respond to matters of international concern, including peace and security. We do not wish to see the General Assembly usurp the mandate of the Security Council, but we do believe that the Security Council — working hand in hand with the General Assembly — can respond more effectively to international crises.

We believe that a comprehensive reform of the Security Council is necessary and urgent. Africa and Latin America have waited too long to gain permanent representation. The Security Council must therefore expand in both its categories, especially the permanent one, in order to redress that historical injustice.

We have just completed the general debate segment of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The theme for the debate was "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance". South Africa reiterates its commitment to the principle of multilateralism and the central role that the United Nations plays in global governance. As Member States, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that all the principal organs of the Organization are focused on addressing the needs of our people, especially the most vulnerable.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their services to the Organization, and we convey to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, the President of this Assembly and all Member States our commitment to ensuring that we progress closer to our shared goal of achieving a better world for all.

Mr. Sinhaseni (Thailand): First of all, I would like to add my voice to those thanking the Secretary-General for his report (A/65/1). Thailand had studied the report carefully. We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that the global recovery we are experiencing is fragile and uneven and that it requires political will and leadership to enhance the well-being of all, especially the poor and the vulnerable.

Thailand believes that multilateralism is not an option but a must, if we are to realize our common goals. The United Nations, with its universal membership, can and should do more to provide global leadership and coordinate global actions. In that regard, as reflected in the statement of Thailand's Foreign Minister during the general debate, Thailand will continue to be a strong supporter of the United Nations in pursuing our common goals, consistent with the principles enshrined in the Charter. Furthermore, through our active participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other multilateral forums, we will ensure that that message resonates within our region and beyond.

Thailand would like to take this opportunity to share our views on some issues that we feel are critical. First, on development, we are concerned that the impacts of the recent global financial and economic crisis may derail progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in many countries around the world. The recent global financial crisis reminds us that development should be measured, not by nominal growth numbers, but rather by its ability to achieve balanced, inclusive, green and integrated growth, where extra care is given to the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. In that connection, Thailand encourages the United Nations to accelerate its efforts to promote achievement of the MDGs by 2015, with people-centred development, moderation in consumption and optimal use of resources as guiding principles.

Of the eight MDGs, we feel that international cooperation, as called for in MDG 8, is most crucial to ensure the realization of the MDGs by 2015. International cooperation must be demand-oriented. It should take into account local conditions and facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology. Additionally, regional cooperation, as well as enhanced partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional groups, should further accelerate the achievement of the MDGs.

In South-East Asia, ASEAN integration, through enhanced connectivity of physical infrastructure, institutions and people, is expected to narrow development gaps and promote local socio-economic empowerment. Furthermore, the entry into force of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization Agreement and the creation of a regional economic surveillance mechanism are two notable examples of regional cooperation aimed at helping to ensure economic growth and resilience. While committed to a strong and fully integrated ASEAN, Thailand continues to call for and promote closer and action-oriented partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, especially on social and economic development.

Secondly, on peace and security, Thailand commends the efforts of the United Nations in the past year in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We would like to stress that close consultations between the United Nations and concerned Member States, as well as ownership in both the process and the outcome, are crucial to achieving sustainable peace on the ground. Any intervention by the United Nations should be guided by the needs and consent of the host country.

Regarding disarmament, Thailand commends the Secretary-General for convening the recent high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the conference on disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations and hopes that the Conference will soon make progress on substantive issues. We also reiterate the call for expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament and the appointment of a special coordinator on expansion of the membership of the Conference for 2011.

Thirdly, human rights form a core principle of the Thai Government and its foreign policy. We believe that only engagement and dialogue can make a real impact on improving people's lives and can ultimately help pave the way towards peace. The creation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights reflects our region's determination to promote and protect human rights. United Nations support for that effort can further advance the cause of human rights within the region and beyond.

As the report by the Secretary-General rightly states, women are one of the greatest forces for positive change in the world. In that regard, Thailand welcomes the creation of UN Women and is confident that, under the leadership of Her Excellency Ms. Michelle Bachelet, marked improvement in global gender equality and women's empowerment will be made.

On a related note, Thailand also commends the United Nations initiative to ensure more equitable gender representation within the United Nations system.

For our part, Thailand has done what it can to contribute to international human rights norm-setting, an example of which has already been recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption at the current session of the General Assembly. Through the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol's draft United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, soon to be submitted by the Third Committee to the Assembly for adoption, we hope that the specific needs of women prisoners, not only in Thailand but also in correctional facilities throughout the world, will be catered to.

Fourthly, on the work of the Organization, Thailand believes that Member States should be closely consulted and kept informed about the work and initiatives of the Secretariat, United Nations mandate holders, agencies, funds and programmes, on a regular basis and in a transparent manner, especially when changes involve the creation of new mandates, the expansion of existing mandates, the initiation of new concepts and the definition of their application. Without a common understanding on the way forward and the direction of the Organization and without general support of the United Nations membership, despite good intentions, such changes could bring unintended consequences and might be detrimental to the overall work of the Organization.

Lastly, Thailand agrees with the Secretary-General that the United Nations must adapt to the new environment by becoming more efficient, effective and more accountable, while at the same time ensuring coherence and coordination among all relevant agencies in the system. Nevertheless, the United Nations cannot, and should not, do everything. The United Nations must prioritize its work and responsibilities and work closely with Member States and partners in all of the various sectors.

Mr. Elshareef (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to express our deep thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General for his annual report on the work of the Organization, as contained in document A/65/1. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General across a range of areas, especially now that our world is facing various challenges.

The report mentions what has been achieved by the Organization in many fields, such as work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals. However, there are great disparities between countries in that respect, and in order to realize the MDGs, the international community must fulfil its commitment to expedite progress towards that end.

In the area of peacekeeping, we underscore the positive cooperation and the valuable contributions of the United Nations through its two Missions in the Sudan, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan — especially for their contributions during the elections held last April, among the various international efforts taking place in the country. We also appreciate the announcement and the will shown by the United Nations and the international community to cooperate in order to ensure the success of the

referendum on self-determination in Southern Sudan to be held in January 2011.

On this occasion, we call on the United Nations and the international community to fulfil their promises to support all of the efforts to implement the remaining parts of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to support the peace process in Darfur. In this respect, we commend the constructive cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, on the one hand, and my country on the other hand, with a view to overcoming all of the obstacles and to enhancing constructive consultations between the Sudan as the host country and all of the participating parties in order to fulfil the mandate of the Mission. Here, I am referring to the various meetings of the tripartite mechanism, which comprises the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudan and last met here in New York on 27 September 2010 to discuss the situation of the Mission, with the participation of the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan and the representatives of the African Union. In that context, all of the participants at that meeting commended the spirit of cooperation shown by the competent authorities in my country in assisting in the implementation of the Mission's mandate, and stressed the need to strengthen mechanisms for cooperation and consultation.

We also wish to note that, by virtue of that cooperation, Mission deployment has now passed 80 per cent, and marked improvement has been seen in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

With reference to what is mentioned at the end of paragraph 54 of the report of the Secretary-General under consideration:

> "restrictions on the freedom of movement of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur continued to hamper the Operation's ability to implement its mandate" (*A/65/1, para. 54*).

This situation is the result of incidents that affect some of the work owing to the prevalence of criminals, bandits and members of the rebel movements, which have splintered. This requires certain security precautions to be taken in order to safeguard the interests of the Missions, as well as their personnel, and of other humanitarian organizations working in Darfur, so that they are not subject to kidnapping and any aggressive acts against them and their property.

My Government reaffirms its commitment not to hamper the work of the Mission and reiterates its commitment to cooperate fully with all parties and stakeholders concerned to fulfil the mandate of the Mission. We also wish to stress that negotiations in the peace process are continuing in Doha, Qatar. From this rostrum, we reiterate our invitation and call upon the United Nations and the international community to exert pressure on the rebel movements that have refused to participate in the Doha peace negotiations to ensure that peace prevails throughout Darfur.

In conclusion, allow me to emphasize my country's principled position to achieve peace and to conduct the referendum on the date stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We also call on the international community and the United Nations to fulfil their obligations to the peace process and support the negotiations in order to achieve stability in my country. We reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General for all of the efforts exerted in the various fields covered in the report.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See.

Archbishop Chullikatt (Holy See): The past year has seen an increase in the number of challenges, both at the United Nations and within the greater global community, but my delegation remains hopeful that this Organization will respond to its Charter responsibilities and commit itself to taking decisive action in fulfilling its purposes as spelled out in Article 1.

Today, as the international financial and economic crisis is beginning to show signs of recovery, many of the poorest within society still remain beyond the reach of its benefits, and an additional 64 million people will fall into extreme poverty by the end of the year. This challenge calls for a new focus by the international community and a return to authentic humanitarian programmes and financial systems that place people at the centre rather than forcing them to serve the programmes and systems.

The financial crisis has proved to be a growing challenge to the efforts of developed countries to fund their official development assistance commitments and at the same time provide programmes to rebuild and

renew their own financial and labour markets. While that challenge is real, it is not insurmountable, if nations would move resources from programmes designed to destroy to those that foster life and development. This task is in fact within the capacity of the Members of this noble Organization.

In 2007, $1.3 trillion was spent globally on arms and other military expenditures, and that figure increased in 2009 during a global economic crisis to over $1.5 trillion. The limitless ability to find funds for military programmes highlights yet again the need for individuals and governmental leaders to refocus their priorities and financial commitments.

Those expenditures are even more troubling when we consider the facts that over 1.4 billion people in the world live on less than $1.25 per day, even though this could be remedied; that universal primary education remains unattained, even though that too could be addressed; and that access to clean drinking water and sanitation continues to go unmet, even though the capacity to provide remains within our grasp. Midway to the ambitious goal of 2015, as we discuss the need to find adequate funding sources for the Millennium Development Goals, we must acknowledge that transferring financial resources from military programmes to those that promote long-term sustainable development has become an urgent matter. Such spending demonstrates that development, peace and security are inherently interlinked.

While United Nations efforts to engage in preventive diplomacy and respond to crises have provided some welcomed successes, those successes will prove to be only temporary if governmental leaders and the United Nations bodies are unwilling to find ways to fulfil their responsibility to protect and give all nations an effective voice directed towards the betterment of all members of the human family.

The increasingly interconnected nature of the international community requires an international political authority that is capable of focusing international cooperation and responding to economic crisis in such a way as to avoid deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that could result. It must also seek to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace, guarantee protection of the environment and regulate migration. Such a body must be regulated by the principles of just laws, subsidiarity, solidarity and pursuit of the common good, while at the same time making a commitment to secure authentic integral human development inspired by the values of charity in truth — a truth that respects every member of the human family.

Promoting human and economic development and greater cooperation between States also requires a commitment to fundamental and authentic human rights that respect the true nature of the human person. Chief among those rights is the fundamental right to life. Population measures and health services that fail to recognize the right to life and the right to establish and raise a family undermine the inherent dignity of the human person. Concepts of reproductive health and sexual rights that incorporate access to abortion or other forms of life-destroying services or research foster the flawed logic of a culture of death instead of one that respects and embraces life and a better more sustainable future of humankind.

In addition, human rights must recognize the inherent social and spiritual nature of the human person and respect the rights of individuals to practise freely their faith. Religious freedom encompasses more than the mere toleration of religion and religious beliefs but also requires the freedom to worship and express one's faith publicly within society. In that light, religious intolerance and violence in the name of religion or in the name of God must be condemned. It is therefore important that concepts such as the defamation of religion be re-examined so as to ensure that religious intolerance and incitement to violence are rightly condemned without hindering the right to genuine religious freedom, which is beneficial to all.

The need to extend universally humanity's ability to care for one another is also an important means for allowing global neighbours to become worldwide brothers and sisters. In that regard, my delegation calls for universal solidarity in favour of those most in need. Today, international emergencies around the world receive financial and technical assistance from all corners of the globe. As the response to the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan demonstrates, the international community, when it has good intentions and commits itself, can make the world a smaller place, capable of caring for people in any corner of the globe.

In coordinating those responses, the United Nations system and national political leaders play an important role in ensuring that aid reaches those most

in need in the most effective manner possible. However, that coordination must also recognize the particular role of local and faith-based providers in responding to emergency situations. Those organizations' long-term commitment to and activity within affected communities provide understanding of local needs and foster respect for local customs and traditions.

The United Nations has made important contributions to fostering development and greater peace and security. However, the Organization must continue to revitalize its work, so as to be more capable of responding to the future needs of the international community in a manner consistent with the purposes as set out in the Charter. During the past year the United Nations system responded to a number of difficult humanitarian emergencies, the International Criminal Court nearly finalized an amendment on the crime of aggression, progress was made on nuclear disarmament, and negotiations on an arms trade treaty began. However, those welcome developments were accompanied by the lack of a final outcome from the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, the lagging global financial recovery, continuing nuclear proliferation in defiance of national and global security, and ongoing violence in many corners of the world. The Holy See reiterates its commitment to the principles and ideals set down at the foundation of the United Nations and will continue to work to ensure that the Organization will increasingly serve as a sign of unity between States and an instrument of service to the entire human family.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization contained in document A/65/1?

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its agenda item 108.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations

A/65/PV.27

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

27th plenary meeting
Friday, 8 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 133

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/492)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, may I take it that the Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee that is before it?

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, either in the Committee or in the plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee. I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report, I should like to inform representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/3).

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 133.

Agenda items 71 and 72

Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

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10-57241 (E)

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Note by the Secretary-General (A/65/188)

Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Note by the Secretary-General (A/65/205)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to take note of the fifteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to take note of the seventeenth annual report of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia?

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on Mr. Dennis Byron, President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

Mr. Byron: It is a great honour for me to address the members of the General Assembly today and to present the fifteenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/65/188). Let me commence by extending my congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Joseph Deiss of Switzerland on his election to the presidency of the Assembly.

In Arusha and The Hague, we have a year of hard work behind us, but I am pleased to report significant progress in the completion of our mandate as a result. We have been able to achieve that progress despite major obstacles, in particular with regard to staffing.

Over the last year, the Tribunal was highly productive in the delivery of judgements. The Chambers rendered seven trial and four appeal judgements during the reporting period — that is, from July 2009 to June 2010 — and an additional trial judgement was delivered in August. We expect three more trial judgements and up to four more appeal judgements before the end of this year.

In addition to the judgements, the Trial and Appeals Chambers issued almost 400 written and numerous oral decisions and orders. The delivery of the judgements in all the ongoing or commencing cases at trial level is expected before the end of 2011.

The workload is high and is shared equally among the permanent and ad litem judges in the Trial Chambers. I have raised the issue of the inequality of their terms and conditions of service with the Assembly before. It is a major concern for the Tribunal. The work and the commitment of the ad litem judges have been and continue to be indispensable to the successful and timely completion of our work. Without them, we could not have achieved what we did.

We very much welcome the resolution of March 2010 to resolve the issue as a priority of the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fifth session (resolution 64/261). While that issue will soon be before the Fifth Committee, I ask members and their Governments for support in the matter to provide for equity and to ensure that the work of the Tribunal can be successfully completed.

Like every other court, national or international, the Tribunal's achievements will ultimately be judged on the quality of its trials and judgements and on the efficiency of its judicial management. We continue to work hard with respect to both aspects, but in all our efforts we face one main stumbling block — the staffing situation. We continue to lose many of our best and most experienced staff members. One hundred and sixty-seven staff members left the Tribunal during the reporting period. They often leave for other institutions in the same field, where they can obtain longer-term contracts.

In Chambers, to give an example, three of the four multi-accused cases have lost their coordinators over the past few months, just a couple of months ahead of the expected judgement delivery. It is almost unavoidable that such departures, with their consequent loss of institutional memory, result in delays in the judgement drafting process. We cannot replace those staff members easily. We face difficulties attracting a sufficient number of good candidates with what we can offer, which is mostly temporary contracts. That is particularly relevant for the higher ranks of P-4 and P-5 positions. The remaining staff face the uncertainty of their professional future, which affects their morale and productivity.

Let me now turn to the issue of fugitives. The Office of the Prosecutor and its tracking team, in cooperation with the national authorities, were able to ensure the arrest of one fugitive — Jean Bosco Uwinkindi — in Uganda. His case is one of those

earmarked for referral to a national jurisdiction. While several options of possible referral countries are being explored, the focus remains on Rwanda. The support activities conducted by the Tribunal continue to further strengthen the Rwandan judiciary, in particular with respect to witness protection.

The number of remaining fugitives is now down to 10. That number still includes three of the most high-ranked accused: Félicien Kabuga, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana. I therefore reiterate the call to all States, especially the States of the Great Lakes region, in particular Kenya, to intensify cooperation with the Tribunal and to render all necessary assistance so that their arrest can be ensured soon. Over 16 years have passed. We cannot wait any longer for justice to be done. We must not give the fatal signal to alleged perpetrators that their successful hiding for 16 years will ultimately be rewarded with impunity.

One focus of the work of the Registrar is the search for countries to relocate acquitted persons and those who have served their sentences. Currently, three such persons remain in safe houses in Arusha. One has been there for over four years. We must be aware that a full commitment to the rule of law includes the acceptance that those who have been lawfully acquitted or who have completed their sentence need to be enabled to recommence their life as free persons. I appeal for the support of Member Governments to make that possible.

The cooperation between States and the Tribunal is a two-way street. Over the past year, the Office of the Prosecutor has responded to over 100 requests for mutual legal assistance in connection with proceedings that national prosecuting authorities are conducting in relation to crimes committed in Rwanda in 1994. The number of such requests continues to increase and the services of the Tribunal to national prosecuting authorities become more and more important, as it is they who will bear the burden of continuing the fight against impunity after the Tribunal has closed down. We therefore have to ensure that the residual mechanism will be in a position to continue with that essential support.

The Tribunal has submitted its revised estimates for the rest of the 2010-2011 biennium. Despite some delays, the progress seen in our completion strategy is significant and the downsizing process is ongoing. Therefore, I am convinced that what we have achieved so far will give the Assembly the confidence and the trust to provide us with the necessary resources to complete our mandate expeditiously during this and the next biennium.

The Security Council continues its discussions on the structure and functioning of the residual mechanism for our Tribunal and our sister Tribunal in The Hague. A resolution on that issue in the near future will help us in preparing in the best possible manner for a timely and smooth transition to that residual mechanism. The preparatory work is time- and resource-intensive, in particular with respect to the archives of the Tribunal. They will document our legacy and will form part of the historical memory for the Rwandans and indeed for the entire international community. We have to ensure that they will be easily accessible in the future for all those who may be interested, the general public and researchers.

I should like to conclude by once again thanking Member Governments for the support they have provided to the Tribunal over the past years. The Assembly has walked this path with us for over 15 years, and we need its support in the last laps of this journey, in the interest of the victims and of international justice. We strive to earn that support with our unceasing committed efforts.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I thank the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

I now call on Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson, President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Robinson: At the outset, I wish to congratulate the President on his assumption of the presidency of the General Assembly and to express my gratitude for his country's steadfast support for the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

It is an honour to appear before the Assembly today in my capacity as President of the Tribunal and to present the Tribunal's seventeenth annual report (A/65/205) to the General Assembly.

During the reporting period, the Tribunal faced unprecedented challenges but also made unprecedented advances in the implementation of its completion strategy.

Ten trials were conducted simultaneously in the Tribunal's three courtrooms, and the second of the Tribunal's three multiaccused trials, *Prosecutor v. Popović et al.*, was brought to a close. The Tribunal has succeeded in conducting proceedings in 10 trials concurrently by doubling up judges and staff so that they are working on more than one case. In addition, the Tribunal also handled three contempt cases, disposing of two.

Currently there are nine trials ongoing, with a tenth case being returned to the pretrial stage following the Appeals Chamber's decision to grant the Prosecution's request for a retrial in the case of *Haradinaj et al.* It is anticipated that the *Haradinaj* retrial will commence in the new year.

Judgements are anticipated to be delivered in the *Đorđević* trial next month and in the *Gotovina et al.* trial the following month. An additional two trials — that of *Perišić* and the final multiaccused case of *Prlić et al.* — will conclude in 2011. Five trials, including the *Haradinaj* retrial, are anticipated to conclude in 2012, and the final case, that of *Karadžić*, should be completed towards the end of 2013.

All appeals are still scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014, although the recent unavoidable delays in the *Karadžić* case suggest that that date has become exceedingly optimistic and will have to be reassessed at an appropriate time.

In total, the Tribunal has completed proceedings in relation to 126 persons overall, with 13 cases remaining to be completed.

The Tribunal continues to take all measures possible to expedite its trials, without sacrificing due process. However, as these anticipated completion dates show, the estimates for the completion of trials from the last reporting period have had to be substantially amended. That is the result of unforeseen factors not immediately within the Tribunal's control, including witness intimidation, failure of witnesses to appear, illness of accused, the complexities associated with cases of self-represented accused, and staff attrition. Those factors are fully detailed in my report to the Security Council of May 2010 (S/2010/270, annex I).

It must be underscored that the trial schedule produced by the Tribunal is a forecast only and is estimated by reference to factors identified as falling within the Tribunal's control. But there are important influences on the trial schedule that are not within the Tribunal's control.

To give but one example, earlier this year the national authorities of Serbia discovered new evidence relevant to at least six of the Tribunal's cases, namely 18 military notebooks of Ratko Mladić allegedly written during the period from 1991 to 1995. The discovery of that new evidence has the potential to delay all of those trials and could not have been foreseen when the trial estimates were generated. For the most part, it is not possible to ascertain the precise impact of that new evidence, but it would seem that the minimum delay would be a period of about three months.

But more generally, it has to be understood that assessments that are made prior to the commencement of a trial are really nothing more than guesstimates. For example, the Trial Chamber in the *Karadžić* case, in assessing the time it would take to complete the trial, considered it a fair assessment to allocate to *Karadžić* the same time for the cross-examination of Prosecution witnesses as it allowed the Prosecution for its own examination of its witness. However, the unprecedented volume of written material tendered through those witnesses has necessitated a significant increase in the time allotted to *Karadžić* for cross-examination, and that could not have been anticipated at an early stage of the proceedings.

That is the nature of trials, particularly trials of the complexity of those heard at the Tribunal. It is often the case that assessments made with the best of intentions prior to the commencement of a trial are shown to have been overly optimistic once the trial has commenced. There is nothing unusual about that. As I have said on many previous occasions, the estimation of the length of trial and appeal proceedings is more an art than a science. That is something that the international community needs to respect.

It has occurred to us at the Tribunal that the misunderstanding that Member States have in respect of the time taken to complete the Tribunal's mandate is partially, if not wholly, due to the novelty of the exercise in which the United Nations is now involved in relation to the Tribunal. In the past, the United Nations has wound up administrative bodies such as peacekeeping operations. The Organization has therefore developed a practice and a culture with

regard to exit strategies for such bodies. But the Tribunal is not an administrative body. It is a court of law, and as such it will always be prone to a certain degree of unforeseeability, which is a natural element in most kinds of judicial work, particularly in trials as complicated as those at the Tribunal.

The Tribunal cannot be wound up as though it were a bakery producing bread. It can be wound up properly only with appropriate sensitivity to the judicial character of its work. To apply to the Tribunal in this, the final stages of its life, the mindset and culture that are relevant to the closure of administrative bodies like peacekeeping operations is wholly wrong and, what is more, is bound to have an effect on the Tribunal's capacity, and indeed duty, to deliver justice in a fair and impartial manner, as will become apparent in what follows.

However, I should also underscore that, when delays are shown to be inevitable and fully justifiable, judges do not simply accept them as part and parcel of the trial process. They proactively devise and implement measures to reduce such delays by, for example, increasing court hearings and reducing the number of witnesses to be heard in a case. For example, in the *Karadžić* case, the Trial Chamber has announced its intention to adopt measures to reduce the slippage resulting from its recent decision to allot more time to Mr. Karadžić in the interests of fairness.

In that regard, I am bound to point out that judges, and in fact all staff at the Tribunal, feel the pressure of the completion strategy and of the international community to expedite the work of the Tribunal. And as a judge and as President of the Tribunal, I must say I find that troubling. Judges are entitled to, and indeed must work in, an environment free from all external pressures, so that their judicial independence is not, and does not appear to be, compromised. In that regard, I note that motions have been filed by parties accusing the judges of taking decisions for the sole purpose of expediting the proceedings and in some cases alleging that that was done in response to the completion strategy and not on the basis of the merits of the case and without regard for the fairness of those proceedings.

There are some other obvious causes of delay that cut across all the Tribunal's trials, and some are simply unavoidable. First is the doubling up of judges and staff. The scheduling of hearings, deliberations and consultations has been complicated by the need to take into account the competing obligations of judges and staff to other cases. While the Tribunal has increased its trial capacity from conducting six trials simultaneously to 10 trials, it has not seen a comparative increase in its resources.

Another factor that has impacted our work is the constant departure of the Tribunal's highly experienced staff for more secure employment elsewhere. Experienced staff continue to leave at an alarming rate. In Chambers alone, the Tribunal has witnessed a 21 per cent attrition rate. The impact of those departures on the expeditious completion of the Tribunal's trials and appeals is profound, and I have consistently warned the Security Council and the Assembly that the work of the Tribunal will be protracted if we are unable to retain staff and are forced to constantly recruit and train new staff.

I have called upon the United Nations to assist the Tribunal in devising incentives to retain its highly qualified staff. I have also identified measures that could be taken to alleviate staff attrition rates. However, to date very little has been achieved.

The General Assembly offered us a measure of hope through its adoption of resolution 63/256, in December 2008, which authorized the Tribunal to offer contracts to staff in line with planned post reductions and the prevailing trial schedules. However, despite the clear language and intention of the resolution, it has not been implemented, because the budgetary authorities at United Nations Headquarters consider the Tribunal incapable of offering contracts to staff that are not tied to approved budgetary submissions.

In desperation, I made a direct plea for assistance to the Security Council in June of this year, and the Council responded by passing resolution 1931 (2010), which noted the importance of the Tribunal being adequately staffed to complete its work expeditiously and called upon the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to work with the Registrar of the Tribunal in order to find practicable solutions to address the issue as the Tribunal approaches the completion of its work.

In the meantime, the Tribunal is still pressing for action to be taken, as we continue to lose our highly experienced and essential staff, and as the expeditiousness of our proceedings continues to suffer from delays that could be avoided through urgent

action by the international community to devise incentives encouraging our staff to remain with the Tribunal until they are no longer necessary.

I should add that the updated trial schedule has resulted in the Tribunal's filing a supplementary budget, which is before the Assembly. In so doing, the Tribunal was extremely sensitive to the current economic climate, and has requested only that which it considered absolutely necessary in order to ensure that our expeditious operation is not compromised. In that regard, I note that the efficiency and productivity of the Tribunal far surpass those of any other comparable institution, and that is despite the many challenges it has faced during the reporting period.

There is one final matter that I feel compelled to raise before the Assembly yet again. I refer to my commitment as President of the Tribunal to ensuring the establishment of a trust fund for victims from the former Yugoslavia. The International Criminal Court and the 113 States that have ratified the Rome Statute have demonstrated by their establishment of a trust fund for victims that they accept that justice must not only be retributive, but that it must also be restorative if peace is to be lasting. It is my intention, as President of the Tribunal, to take action to end this travesty, and I hope that I will receive the Assembly's support in doing so.

In closing, I wish to reassure all Member States that the Tribunal's commitment to the completion strategy remains steadfast and that we are taking all measures within our power to expedite our proceedings, while still fully respecting the rights of the accused to due process. I would also ask that all Member States reflect for a moment on the remarkable achievements of the Tribunal. It was not so long ago that international criminal justice was but a dream in the minds of those striving for a safer and more just world. But now the dream has been realized. The Tribunal has demonstrated to the international community that international humanitarian law is an enforceable body of law, that it binds the conduct of the most senior officials, and that the rule of law is a living, breathing reality that forms part of the fabric of our civilization. The Tribunal represents the aspirations of the international community to ensure that justice prevails over impunity, and that is something in which we all have a stake.

It is for these reasons that the work of the Tribunal, which has been entrusted to us, is not only our work but in fact the work of everyone here today. I therefore call on all States members of the General Assembly to assist us in our commitment to bringing the work of the Tribunal to a close, expeditiously and fairly.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Iddi (United Republic of Tanzania): Let me, on behalf of my delegation, thank the Presidents of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Mr. Dennis Byron and Mr. Patrick Robinson, respectively, for their comprehensive reports to the Assembly. I should like to express my Government's sincere appreciation for the enormous efforts that the two Presidents have made to spearhead the work of the Tribunals to Member States' satisfaction. Tanzania fully appreciates the extent of the accomplishments that the principals of the Tribunals have been able to achieve over the past year, despite all the odds, and we urge them to continue to do so in the challenging times of transition to come.

The reports of the Tribunals point to significant progress over the past year, which, as I said, deserves our sincere appreciation. They reveal that the Tribunals have continued their efforts to complete their remaining workload at both the trial and the appeal levels, and have thus far succeeded significantly. Without referring to the statistics, I also wish to commend the Tribunals for their efforts to bring fugitives to book, and I wish to join the Tribunal Presidents in their call on Member States to continue cooperating in bringing to justice those fugitives who remain at large. Speaking for Tanzania, I can assure the Assembly that our Government will continue to extend the necessary support to both the ICTR and the ICTY in whatever way we can.

It is heartening to note that the Tribunals have made important preparations as they head towards their conclusion, including those aimed at avoiding unnecessary gaps in the dispensation of international criminal justice. For instance, in the case of the ICTR, the diffusion of information about its activities has been enhanced. Outreach projects relating to youth sensitization and genocide prevention in the Great

Lakes region have been made possible with the generous financial support of development partners. Capacity-building activities for legal professionals in Rwanda are a good indication that there will be no gap after the Tribunal concludes its work, as the national authorities will be able to advance the disposition of pending cases. We wish to thank all the development partners that have extended financial support to the Tribunal, and urge others to follow suit.

It is equally worth noting that the Tribunals have played an important role in fighting impunity and promoting the international cause of justice. As the host country for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, we have continued to facilitate its smooth operations in accordance with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement. We will continue to do so during this stage of transition towards the conclusion of its mandate.

However, we note with concern that the Tribunals have faced numerous challenges in recent years, especially in the difficult area of staffing. Some staff members have had to abandon their posts for more stable and reliable employment elsewhere in the United Nations system. We would urge the General Assembly to pronounce on this delicate matter, which hampers a smooth transition to the conclusion of the Tribunals' mandate.

Likewise, we note that the reports have revealed that the Tribunals continued to be hampered by a shortage of volunteer countries to take acquitted persons and where convicted persons could serve their sentences. This is a serious problem that should be addressed jointly. We therefore call upon Member States to consider accepting this noble responsibility.

Another challenge facing the Tribunals is the fact that a number of fugitives remain at large. We therefore call upon Member States to continue to cooperate in search of all fugitives so that they can be brought before the Tribunals to face justice. Such cooperation would go a long way towards preventing impunity and indeed send a strong message to perpetrators of crimes against humanity. By and large, it would enhance the full realization of the celebrated principle of "extradite or prosecute", and thus deny safe haven to perpetrators of heinous crimes.

As rightly stated in the report of the ICTR, "State cooperation remains the cornerstone of the Tribunal's ability to complete its mandate" (*A/65/188, para. 85*). We call upon Member States to provide such cooperation. We also urge Member States to consider extending cooperation with regard to acquitted and convicted persons, and to continue to provide the Tribunals with the necessary resources so that they are able to complete their work within the intended time frame.

As the Tribunals draw closer to completing their mandates, the United Republic of Tanzania has been following with great interest the deliberations of the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, chaired by Austria, on the various options for the Tribunals' residual mechanisms and archives. To this end, the Government of Tanzania considers that it would be desirable for sensitive records of the Tribunals containing confidential records to continue to be kept in a safe, peaceful, stable environment accessible to the United Nations and authorized persons without administrative bottlenecks, security concerns or political constraints.

Tanzania is ready and willing to continue to host the residual mechanism and the archives with the same dedication and commitment we have demonstrated throughout the operation of the ICTR from its inception. We strongly believe that the infrastructure already in place is suitable to maintain the records of the Tribunal as an important historical learning institution for the benefit of our future generations.

In conclusion, let me once again renew my Government's commitment to the cause of international criminal justice by deed and action. We will continue to provide the facilities necessary for the smooth conclusion of the work of the ICTR, as well to ensure that all issues relating to residual functions will be handled with even greater care and due diligence in Tanzania. We hope to be able to offer a helping hand as we have always done. Together, we can overcome all of these hurdles.

Mr. Grauls (Belgium): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

This year once again, the European Union reaffirms its unwavering support for the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Both Tribunals are making invaluable contributions to our shared goal of ending impunity for serious international crimes. The European Union thanks both President Robinson and President Byron for their reports (A/65/205 and A/65/188) and commends them for their efforts in completing the work of the Tribunals. The European Union also pays special tribute to the work of all the staff of the Tribunals.

The Tribunals have played key roles in strengthening the rule of law and promoting long-term stability and reconciliation — and not only in the Balkans and Rwanda. Their jurisprudence has had far wider effects. Since their establishment, both Tribunals have embodied the need to fight impunity and the international community's refusal to let perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern escape justice. They have been forerunners in creating jurisprudence that is a source of inspiration for all national and international jurisdictions that will have to address such crimes. Their records bear that out. International criminal justice does exist; it prevails, and sooner or later the perpetrators will be held accountable for their heinous crimes.

The European Union recalls that State cooperation — in particular cooperation in bringing those indicted to justice — remains the cornerstone of the Tribunals' ability to complete their mandates. In this respect, the European Union commends the cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Ugandan authorities for the arrest and transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda during the past year of Grégoire Ndahimana, Idelphonse Nizeyimana and Jean Bosco Uwinkindi.

However, despite continuing appeals by the international community, altogether 12 accused individuals remain at large, of whom two have been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 10 have been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The failure to arrest these indictees remains a matter of grave concern to the European Union. Among those still at large are five key indictees allegedly responsible for the most serious atrocities, including Ratko Mladić, Goran Hadžić and Félicien Kabuga. We call on all States, and in particular States of the relevant regions, to further intensify their efforts to ensure that all indictees are arrested and surrendered to the Tribunals.

The European Union notes that the cooperation of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was generally adequate during the reporting period, although some important issues remain to be addressed. While there are many commendable instances of cooperation, the European Union continues to urge all States to cooperate immediately and unconditionally with both Tribunals, in full adherence to their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the arrest and surrender of remaining fugitives and the transfer of any documents requested by the Prosecutors.

The European Union remains committed to ensuring that all indictees face justice. In this regard, the European Union would like to recall that cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is essential in relation to the European Union's Stabilization and Association Process.

With regard to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the European Union notes with appreciation that the Prosecutor has held fruitful high-level discussions with officials of several States on the issue of cooperation with his Office, but regrets that cooperation with Kenya remains a major challenge. The European Union calls on the Kenyan authorities to engage in further discussions with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as offered by the Kenyan representative in the Security Council debate of 18 June, on the present whereabouts of the fugitive Félicien Kabuga (see S/PV.6342).

In recognition of strengthened domestic capacity, the Security Council, in its resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004), called on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to transfer all lower- and mid-level accused to competent national jurisdictions for trial by domestic courts. The European Union welcomes the ongoing efforts of Rwanda, in cooperation with international donors, to strengthen the Rwandan legal system and its ability to adjudicate cases from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and expresses the hope that these reforms will

permit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to transfer the cases of lower-level accused to the Rwandan courts for trial and thus allow the Tribunal to complete its work. The European Union confirms its commitment to supporting activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Rwandan judiciary.

The European Union regrets that there has been further slippage in the completion timelines due to a number of factors, some outside the Tribunal's control, including the late capture and transfer of fugitive indictees. The European Union urges the Tribunals to continue to identify further measures that will allow them to complete their work as efficiently and promptly as possible. However, the completion of the Tribunals' work should be done in an orderly manner and not affect the quality of their adjudication and due process. We acknowledge the importance of adequate resources and of retaining qualified staff to enable the Tribunals to complete their proceedings as soon as possible. However, at the same time, it is important that the Tribunals use their available resources as efficiently as possible.

The European Union further welcomes the progress made on residual issues by the Security Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, including the preparation of a draft resolution and draft statute on the establishment of a residual mechanism. We highly value the open and transparent work of the Informal Working Group on those issues, under its Austrian chairmanship. We stand ready to work with the Security Council to find the most appropriate and cost-effective solutions to the issues of legacy and residual functions. The European Union also supports the idea of the establishment of information centres in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda to facilitate access to the public records of the Tribunals by the interested public.

Ms. Robertson (Australia): It is my honour to speak on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ). Canada, Australia and New Zealand wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm our strong support for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). We thank Judge Robinson and Judge Byron for being present here today and for providing the comprehensive overview of the reports of their respective Tribunals to us (A/65/205 and A/65/188).

We believe that the Tribunals and the international community can be proud of the many achievements the Tribunals have achieved to date. The Tribunals have made an unprecedented contribution to the international community's goal of ending impunity for serious crimes. Their jurisprudence has enriched our understanding of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as the practice and procedures of international criminal law. By fostering the development of national courts, the Tribunals have strengthened the rule of law. Through their outreach and coordination activities, the Tribunals have fostered reconciliation and demonstrated that peace and justice can be pursued in tandem.

We welcome the efforts being made to utilize the legal and institutional legacies of the Tribunals to inform the work of other international criminal tribunals and to promote the advancement of international criminal justice.

CANZ appreciates the efforts being made by both the ICTY and the ICTR to achieve the goals set out in their respective completion strategies. We welcome in particular the ICTY's implementation of the recommendations of its Working Group on Speeding up Trials and the ICTR's issuing of practice directions aimed at improving the management of trials.

CANZ recognizes that, in moving into the completion phase of their work, both Tribunals are facing significant challenges. It is evident from the reports of the Tribunals that a key issue of concern is the fugitive status of 12 indictees. It is imperative that all remaining indictees be surrendered and that States make special efforts to ensure that high-level indictees Ratko Mladić, Goran Hadžić, Félicien Kabuga, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana face trial. As noted by the Tribunals themselves, decisive and intensified action by the relevant authorities is critical in this regard.

It is equally important that the international community respond to the calls of the Tribunals for assistance in developing creative approaches to assist with the retention of essential staff. We accept that the Tribunals are being asked to undertake an ever-more onerous workload at a time when they are losing experienced personnel at an alarming rate as staff members seek out positions with greater job security. We hope that the Secretariat and other relevant bodies will continue to work with the Registrars of the

Tribunals to find practicable solutions to these very pressing problems.

CANZ recognizes that the completion of the Tribunals' mandates will not mean an end to all of the Tribunals' functions. It has long been understood that there will be activities — such as the trial of subsequently captured fugitives, the enforcement of sentences, the protection of witnesses, the provision of assistance to national authorities and the management of archives — that must be continued. We welcome the efforts being made by the Tribunals in that regard, as well as those being undertaken by the Government of Rwanda to address the impediments to the referral of cases to Rwanda by the ICTR.

We also note the reports and recommendations made by the Security Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals in relation to the establishment of a mechanism to carry out the residual functions of the ICTY and the ICTR. We encourage the ongoing discussion of those issues. While the situation faced by every criminal tribunal is unique, those discussions and their eventual outcomes will no doubt be of great assistance to future planning undertaken in relation to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The successful completion of the work of the ICTY and the ICTR will require the cooperation and support of all States. We call upon States to give practical effect to their commitment to an effective system of international criminal justice. For our part, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will continue to offer the Tribunals our full support and cooperation in this vital and challenging stage of their existence.

Mr. Shin Boonam (Republic of Korea): As the Presidents of the two Tribunals have outlined in their respective annual reports (A/65/205 and A/65/188), the achievements of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) are so many as to render it impossible to give appropriate credit to them all. The staff members of the Tribunal and anonymous individuals working behind the scenes to support the Tribunals' work deserve our tribute of great gratitude and respect for that. The time is quickly approaching for the closure of both the ICTY and the ICTR. Now more than ever, we must remain humbled by the task ahead of us — to create a living legacy out of that momentous effort.

The Tribunals represent our effort to apply the rule of law to those who have used their powers to destroy the fabric of peace and committed unimaginable atrocities. The significance of that effort to ensure justice is not to be measured in isolation. It is part of a larger ongoing movement to align international law with the moral sense of humankind so as to ensure that the reach of justice extends to every corner of the world. It is our responsibility to ensure that, years after the last office in the ICTY and the ICTR headquarters has been vacated, the legacy of the two Tribunals continues to ring. But how can that be done? What exactly is or will be the legacy of the two Tribunals?

In my mind, the legacy of the Tribunals is threefold. First, on a technical level, the ICTY and the ICTR have built a foundation for the development of international criminal law. The Tribunals will leave behind a valuable legal asset that includes the rules of procedure, practices and judgements of the Tribunals.

Secondly, the institutional legacy of the two Tribunals has sown the seeds for the creation of other international and hybrid criminal courts around the world. Having simultaneously contributed to the development of national judiciaries to hold fair and effective war crimes proceedings, the ICTY and the ICTR set the standard for the principle of complementarity to gain ground in the paradigm of international justice.

Thirdly, the legacy of creating regional peace and stability reminds us that only when we make all people answerable to the law can we cast away tyranny and violence. Today, the Tribunals have done much to provide a sense of justice and reconciliation to the victims and to society at large.

The next question is: What can we do to ensure the utilization of the legal and institutional advances that have resulted from the Tribunals? In short, how can we secure the legacy?

The mortar for that effort will be the completion strategy of the two Tribunals and, subsequently, the residual mechanisms. While the Security Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals continues to determine the residual functions and what form and structure they should take, it is equally

imperative for us to continuously relate that initiative to a broader context.

Let us continue to take into account the rights of all individuals concerned and offer our cooperation and support to national authorities. As part of their completion strategies, the Tribunals should intensify their efforts to refer further cases to national jurisdictions, which would strengthen domestic judiciaries and act as a catalyst for legal reform. On that note, we must express clearly the jurisdictional continuity between the Tribunals and the mechanisms.

We must also call upon the experienced staff of the Tribunals to provide institutional knowledge and experience to the residual mechanisms, especially through the prudent management of the Tribunals' archives. Creating a separate regime to govern the management of and access to the archives, including confidential information, would be a good place to start. We must also ensure that national judges, prosecutors and lawyers have easy access to them, as well as to the tools to understand them.

One of the most difficult issues facing us today is the fact that several high-level fugitives remain at large. As individuals, their fates may be of little consequence to the world; what makes them significant to us and to the communities affected is that they are living symbols of atrocity, oppression and cruelty — the darkest forces that demoralize a society.

Today, let us call upon all States to intensify cooperation with the Tribunals to achieve the arrest and surrender of those fugitives. We cannot allow a culture of impunity to gain ground and give strength to such sinister forces. Those individuals will be brought to justice and the mandate of the Tribunals fulfilled.

The Republic of Korea will always be one of the most vocal supporters of the movement for international justice. The work of the ICTY and the ICTR has proven to be pivotal to that movement. We look forward to the drawdown of the Tribunals in a smooth and efficient manner. That is what we have achieved, but it is just the beginning. Now that task falls to us, for those institutions will become what we make of their legacies. I wish for the future of international justice to stand high on the shoulders of the ICTY and the ICTR.

Mr. Appreku (Ghana): This being the first time I have taken the floor since his assumption of the presidency, let me add my voice to the warm words of congratulations extended to the President of the General Assembly by the head of Ghana's delegation during the high-level segment of the general debate and reiterate my delegation's best wishes for his success as he presides over the affairs of this Assembly during its sixty-fifth session.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his two notes (A/65/188 and A/65/205), respectively forwarding the comprehensive reports of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

My delegation also expresses deep gratitude to the President of the ICTR, Judge Charles Michael Dennis Byron, and the President of the ICTY, Judge Patrick Robinson, for their thorough presentations of their respective annual reports. We are pleased to learn of the progress being made concerning the respective completion strategies of the two Tribunals. We comment on these two reports mindful that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty and bearing in mind the commitment made by the international community to preventing and deterring mass atrocities and to bringing to justice the perpetrators of such heinous crimes.

The jurisprudence of the ICTR and the ICTY, like that of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and other ad hoc or hybrid tribunals, has contributed significantly to the strengthening of the legal regime of international criminal justice. The practice of engaging in a process of dialogue among judges of the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and other ad hoc or hybrid tribunals will help to minimize or address concerns about the fragmentation of international law and promote the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Ghana welcomes initiatives reflected in the reports of the ICTR and ICTY to build archival records as part of their legacy to guide the future behaviour of individuals and States. Perhaps a more durable legacy will be for the international community to draw appropriate lessons from the legacy of cases or jurisprudence of the Tribunals in order to enhance the capacity of States Members of this Organization to undertake preventative action. The victims must also continue to receive attention even after the work of the Tribunals is wound up. With a view to facilitating the

attainment of their completion targets, the requests of the Tribunals for the various resource challenges outlined in the reports before this Assembly to be addressed deserve careful consideration.

The need for prevention cannot be overemphasized. Indeed, as a result of the experience of violent civil wars and other violent conflicts that have occurred on the continent of Africa, including within our own subregion of West Africa, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s, the African Union (AU) and regional organizations on the continent have resolved to take a more proactive active stance to prevent conflicts or to take timely and decisive action when prevention fails. Thus, for example, under the Constitutive Act of the African Union, AU member States have conferred a treaty right on the Union to intervene at the request of any member State in situations of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity upon the recommendation of the AU Peace and Security Council.

Pursuant to these provisions, the African Union has developed the African Standby Force arrangement and requested logistical and financial support from the international community to ensure that the force can be rapidly deployed for prevention or decisive action on the continent of Africa, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. African countries also joined the consensus in this Assembly when it adopted the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), in particular paragraphs 138, 139 and 140, in which world leaders accepted their responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

As we consider the reports of the ICTY and ICTR today, we should recall that which led to the establishment of the Tribunals in the first place and work at managing our ethnic or racial diversities in a manner that will promote national integration and unity, foster inter-ethnic harmony and prevent mass atrocities. To this end, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ghana and Denmark co-hosted in New York a side event on 24 September 2010, attended by ministers for foreign affairs and other ministers from some 25 countries in a cross-regional endeavour to explore ways of moving beyond the concept to the effective operationalization of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This will no doubt complement the initiatives of the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser for the Responsibility to Protect and his Special Representative for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. Furthermore, early this year, the Government of Ghana invited to Accra the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities to exchange views on measures to address the root causes of conflict, thereby preventing genocide and other serious crimes within the region of the Economic Community of West African States.

I wish to conclude by commending the outreach programmes undertaken by the ICTR and other tribunals aimed at educating young people and other segments of the population, for it is a truth that bears repeating that, since war begins in the thoughts of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be built. We must diligently and passionately inculcate the culture of peace and tolerance among all nations and civilizations.

The United Nations has answered the call made in the African Union's Kigali Declaration to commemorate 7 April as a day of remembrance of the victims of genocide in Rwanda and to renew our commitment to the prevention of genocide in the world. If or when the next mass atrocities threaten or do occur, the international community must be prepared and ready to answer the call to prevent them or take appropriate action in a more timely and decisive manner than it has done in the past.

Ms. Čolaković (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Allow me at the outset to welcome Judge Patrick Robinson, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and Judge Charles Michael Dennis Byron, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and to thank them for their comprehensive and detailed reports (A/65/205 and A/65/188) and briefings in today's meeting. We commend their hard work in fighting impunity and their dedication to the cause of justice, as their every action uncompromisingly states that war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity will not go unpunished. In addition, we find it necessary to mention the tireless work of all the staff of the Tribunals.

We are also obliged to take note of all the efforts the Tribunals make to successfully complete their work, and to provide them with all the necessary support. More than ever, we are convinced that a hasty closure

would irrevocably undermine and tarnish their legacy, a legacy that without a doubt represents one of the cornerstones on which the international criminal justice system as we know it today is built. We strongly agree with the remarks made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 17 July 2008 at the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, when he stated that the fight against impunity started in earnest with the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. Those courts pioneered the emergence of international criminal justice and the enforcement of international humanitarian law. We must therefore not allow the groundbreaking contributions of the Tribunals to international jurisprudence to fall victim to pressure to conclude their mandate, ending with partial results and without adequate resolution.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Mayr-Harting for his firm leadership in chairing the Informal Working Group on the Tribunals. Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches great importance to work of the Group, and further commends the Austrian delegation for efficiently steering its deliberations, with the valuable assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs, to an adequate and credible residual mechanism that will be the Tribunals' legacy.

It is encouraging indeed that during the reporting period of the ICTR three more fugitives were arrested, bringing the total number of fugitives down to 10. On the other hand, it is disappointing and frustrating that Felicien Kabuga, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić still manage to evade justice and mock the entire international community. We can appeal to the Tribunals to comply with the completion strategy and tirelessly work on the residual mechanism, but all of that is useless unless we take some firm steps and serious measures to bring those criminals to justice. Only then — I repeat, only then — will we be able to say that every condition of the founding resolutions of the Tribunals has been met and their assigned mandates fulfilled. For that matter, it is beyond doubt that the unconditional cooperation of the relevant international and regional organizations and States is essential and necessary for the complete fulfilment of the Tribunals' mandates.

I therefore underline the strong commitment of my country to its obligations, and our undeniable support and dedication to strengthening international criminal justice. The ICTY report before us (A/65/205), as well as the previous ones, reflects that commitment through the record of a steady and positive cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Tribunal. As stated, the authorities of my country have effectively responded to all requests of the Prosecutor's Office, providing documents, enabling unobstructed access to Government archives and facilitating the appearance of witnesses before the Tribunal. The cooperation has been particularly constructive with regard to the rule 11 bis cases transferred by the Office of the Prosecutor to the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Five of the six cases transferred to Bosnia and Herzegovina have been completed with final decisions.

Allow me to conclude by underlining that throughout the years Bosnia and Herzegovina's support for the Tribunals, especially the ICTY, has been unwavering, and today we reaffirm that support once again. As the country most affected by the crimes under the jurisdiction of one of the Tribunals, we cannot emphasize enough how important it is to bring justice to the victims and their families and to hold accountable those who committed those heinous crimes. Thus, we regard the work of the Tribunals in fighting impunity as of the highest importance, as they have advanced the rule of law in affected regions, brought justice to those who suffered the most and eventually paved the path towards reconciliation.

Mr. Panin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First of all, let me express our appreciation to the Presidents of both the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for their reports (A/65/205 and A/65/188). The Russian Federation is inalterably committed to the idea of the dispensation of international criminal justice for the perpetrators of the most severe crimes under international law, and recognizes the significant contribution of the Tribunals to establishing a system of international criminal justice and to the cause of restoring peace and justice in States established in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda.

The contribution of the Tribunals to developing the practice of international criminal justice is of an enduring significance that will most likely only be truly assessed by future generations. We have no reservations that those indicted by the Tribunals who have committed the crimes mentioned but who for

various reasons are still at large must be brought to stand before the law. We have consistently supported and we now support the efforts of the two Tribunals to deal with those fugitives. Both here in the Assembly and in the Security Council, we have repeated our assessment of the work of the Tribunals every year in response to the Tribunal reports, and we are willing to reaffirm now every word we have previously said.

Still, there is, unfortunately, a negative side to the work of the Tribunals that diminishes its positive aspect. The Tribunals have long since exceeded the deadlines for their existence, thereby conflicting with Security Council resolutions on a completion strategy for their work. We are convinced that such a situation does a disservice, both to the international community and to the Tribunals themselves, and we intend to continue to press to resolve this matter.

Moreover, an examination of the prospects for moving the Tribunals' work to completion leaves little room for optimism. According to recent information provided by the Tribunals this year, the Rwandan Tribunal planned to close cases in the trial phase in 2011 and the recent appeals at the end of 2013. The Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was looking to close cases in the trial phase in 2012 and the recent appeal litigation in the Karadžić case in 2014. Those deadlines are very noticeably later than the dates provided in 2009 — and have since been extended — so we cannot escape the feeling that even these extended deadlines are not final. One cannot help being alarmed by the continuously significant extensions of the trials, especially in the ICTY. The Rwandan Tribunal has done better by comparison, having provided more accurate forecasts and seeming closer to concluding their cases.

Our position on this matter of principle remains unchanged.

The extension of all proceedings beyond 2010 is an exceptional measure. When one of the Presidents spoke here, he talked about the future. We would like to emphasize that we understand the difference between an ad hoc court and a full court, and we agree that the Tribunals cannot close their business quickly. We understand that, when the completion strategy set the finishing year at 2010, which was supposed to be the final deadline, and the courts saw that they could not manage to finish, the courts corrected that.

We understand the objective reasons why some trials have dragged on. For instance, it is completely understandable why there would be a deadline later than the one originally planned for the ICTY to complete the *Šešelj* case, or a possible extension of the Tribunal's operations owing to the decision to start a partial retrial of the *Haradinaj* case.

However, we see a number of other significant differences between the ad hoc and full courts. We will talk about them later, in a less formal setting.

We are absolutely convinced that the particulars of those cases, if the work were properly organized, could not serve as grounds for significantly extending the Tribunals' deadline and are truly of no impact whatsoever on the delays already registered, and that we are in this situation through the fault of both the Tribunals and States.

The problems of the extension of deadlines for the ICTY and ICTR would be fully manageable, if the efforts of the Tribunals themselves, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the countries of the two regions were coordinated and combined.

With respect to the work of the Tribunals, they have already done much themselves to speed up their trials. We welcome the efforts to speed up litigation and to make rational use of court space and staff for simultaneous hearings on a number of cases. However, more can be done to optimize the work in this respect.

It is unacceptable that the defendant in the *Šešelj* case, which we have already mentioned, had to await the start of proceedings for over six years, in violation of all reasonable procedural timelines and his right to a speedy trial. Such a situation violates even elementary human concepts of justice. Looking for support to speed up the trials is, we think, possible and a way to ensure maximal use of the judges' work and time.

There have been examples of obvious success in meeting that challenge. In particular, we are impressed that the ICTY, in the *Popović* case, was able to support the peak workloads of the judges, prosecution and defence, and we are persuaded that such an intense pace can be also supported in other cases.

The successful completion of the mandates of the Tribunals would be helped if States in the region extended further conscientious cooperation to them. We call on those States to continue to actively facilitate the work of the Tribunals through the timely provision

of the necessary information and to help in the search for individuals still at large. We should especially support the willingness of a number of States to provide the Tribunal with the opportunity for those convicted to serve their sentences in that country and, in the case of Rwanda, even to take on a number of cases under their national jurisdiction. That would attest to the progressive development of legal institutions in post-conflict areas and to the establishment of the rule of law nationally, which was one of the major challenges when the Tribunals were established.

Mr. Starčević (Serbia): Let me begin by welcoming the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Judge Patrick Robinson, and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Mr. Dennis Byron, and thanking them for their presentation of the annual reports of the two Tribunals (A/65/205 and A/65/188).

In this connection, I would like to reiterate Serbia's full commitment to cooperate with the ICTY and to assist in the successful completion of its mandate. My country has clearly expressed its political will in that respect and has implemented it through its efforts towards strong and continuous cooperation with the Tribunal.

That political will was demonstrated also by the fact that, on 31 March 2010, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted a declaration condemning the crime at Srebrenica, an act of exceptional importance for both Serbia and the entire region. By that declaration, the National Assembly gave full support to the work of Government agencies in charge of processing war crimes and successfully completing cooperation with ICTY, in which the locating and arrest of Ratko Mladić and his transfer to the Tribunal for trial is of particular importance.

Also, the President of Serbia was present at the Potočari Memorial Centre on 11 July 2010 for the commemoration of the 15 years since the crime at Srebrenica. He said on that occasion that Serbia would not desist from its efforts to track down the perpetrators of war crimes, and Ratko Mladić in particular, in order to make it possible for people to continue to live together.

Regarding the technical aspects of cooperation with the Tribunal, we consider that a very high level of cooperation has been reached and maintained over the past several years, which is amply evidenced by the reports of the ICTY Prosecutor to the Security Council. That has been made possible by the dedicated work of both the competent Government agencies of the Republic of Serbia and the Tribunal, as well as by the relations of trust and confidence established between them. Today, excellent professional relations exist between the representatives of Serbian institutions and the representatives of the Tribunal, and this is evident.

To illustrate the existing level of cooperation, let me point out the following. Serbia has thus far responded in full to almost all the requests received from the Tribunal related to the provision of documentation, access to the archives of Serbian Government agencies, the provision of waivers for testifying in the proceedings before the Tribunal and all other technical aspects of cooperation. As stated in the report of the President of the Tribunal, the cooperation of Serbia on those issues has been timely and adequate.

We consider it exceptionally important that the report points out that Serbia has delivered to the Tribunal the items seized during the search of the apartment of Ratko Mladić's family conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia in February 2010. Items seized include Mladić's notebooks, that is, handwritten wartime notes from the period from 1991 to 1996. As stated in the report, they also contain highly valuable evidence in certain other cases before the Tribunal.

Serbia transferred to the Tribunal 43 persons indicted for war crimes, while one person committed suicide prior to being transferred. In addition to the persons charged with the most serious crimes, Serbia delivered to the Tribunal all persons found in contempt of court. Mladić and Hadžić are the only remaining fugitives. There should be no doubt about the resolve of the authorities of the Republic of Serbia to arrest Mladić and Hadžić and transfer them to the Tribunal. Serbia considers that bringing these two fugitives to justice, like the 43 before them, is in its best interest.

Serbia is well aware of the suggestions and concerns regarding the fugitives expressed by the President of the Tribunal in his report and by the ICTY Prosecutor in his briefing to the Security Council in June 2010 (*see S/PV.6342*). Serbia's security services, which are investing enormous efforts in bringing Mladić and Hadžić to justice, are open to all

recommendations and suggestions by the officials of the Tribunal. We consider it very important that the Office of the Prosecutor be provided with detailed information about all the measures that are being taken in that respect.

During the recent visit of the President of the ICTY to Belgrade, a regional project aimed at training courts in the countries of the former Yugoslavia to prosecute those accused of war crimes was launched. Serbia considers that cooperation with the Tribunal and the prosecution of war crimes in national courts are basic preconditions for the establishment of the whole truth about the war crimes committed during the armed conflicts in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. That also represents an important contribution towards the normalization of the societies of the region.

We are therefore firmly committed to continuing the high level of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Wetland (Norway): Norway is a staunch supporter of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The high standards and achievements of the Tribunals are reflected in their well-reasoned judgements and the annual reports before us (A/65/188 and A/65/205). I would like to thank the Presidents of the Tribunals, Judges Byron and Robinson, for their informative reports. They provide a detailed account of the progress made during the past year.

The Tribunals have made important contributions to international criminal law. They have developed a jurisprudence that has set standards for national tribunals, as well as for other international tribunals. By effectively prosecuting the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, the Tribunals have not only helped to bring justice to the victims in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. They have also made significant achievements in the fight against impunity for mass atrocities in general.

I would like to focus on three specific issues that are essential for the success of the Tribunals' work. Those are: first, the Tribunals' continued efforts to implement their completion strategies; secondly, the cooperation of Member States; and thirdly, the work on residual issues.

Both Tribunals are working hard to fulfil their mandates. We commend them for their commitment to implementing their completion strategies, while ensuring that the standards of due process and fundamental legal principles are fully respected.

The Tribunals must continue to carry out their work expeditiously, but that endeavour is not without obstacles. During the reporting period, the Tribunals faced difficulties in meeting the objectives set out in their completion strategies owing to the disquieting impact of staff attrition.

In that regard, we welcome Security Council resolutions 1931 (2010) and 1932 (2010), which extended the terms of 39 judges in total. Furthermore, the resolutions called on relevant United Nations bodies to explore ways to address the staffing issue as the Tribunals approach completion of their work.

The Tribunals cannot successfully fulfil their mandates without the full cooperation of States. It is crucial that States give both Tribunals their unreserved support. All States must honour their obligations to provide full and effective assistance to the Tribunals.

Here, we would like to highlight two challenges, namely, the enforcement of sentences and the remaining fugitives. The responsibility to enforce sentences must be shared by more States. We encourage States to enter into agreements on the enforcement of sentences, and we look forward to more such agreements being concluded.

The failure to arrest the remaining fugitives continues to be of grave concern to us. It is not acceptable that perpetrators of serious international crimes evade legal proceedings. Member States must fulfil their obligation to arrest them and transfer them to the Tribunals without delay. I am pleased to note the determination just expressed from this rostrum by my colleague from Serbia.

We are pleased to note that three fugitives have been arrested since the last report (A/64/205). However, 12 fugitives are still at large. We cannot rest until the remaining fugitives are apprehended and brought before the court. Impunity is not an option.

How the residual issues of the Tribunals should be dealt with is a pending issue for the Security Council. While we commend the Tribunals for their efforts, we would also urge them to ensure that as

much work on residual issues as possible is carried out before the completion dates.

We welcome the ongoing work in the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals and the support provided by the Secretariat. With regard to the location of the residual mechanisms, Norway supports an approach that also fully incorporates the needs of other United Nations-assisted courts, and full advantage should be taken of possible synergies.

The continuation of the residual activities of the Tribunals is an important part of their long-term legacy and is important for their legitimacy and for international criminal law in general. Norway is a strong supporter of the rule of law and criminal justice, and will continue to work actively to assist the Tribunals in achieving their completion dates.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity that you have given my delegation to speak in this debate. The Rwandan delegation thanks the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the presentation of their reports (A/65/188 and A/65/205), and acknowledges their tireless efforts to successfully carry out their work and thus accomplish that noble task of doing justice to humanity.

During the period under consideration, the Government of the Republic of Rwanda continued to provide the cooperation needed to enable the ICTR to execute the mandate conferred on it by the Security Council. Rwanda continued to facilitate access to witnesses, whether for the defence or the prosecution, and to ensure their unimpeded travel to Arusha. In that regard, the Government continued to support the Witnesses and Victims Support Section, set up in the Office of the Prosecutor in Kigali, in order to ensure full and complete security for witnesses of genocide. Furthermore, as stated in the report, my Government continued to support investigations, both by the prosecution and by the defence, by providing the documents needed for the trials.

The Government of Rwanda remains committed to continuing to provide its full support for the ICTR's completion strategy, as set out in Security Council resolution 1503 (2003).

However, my delegation regrets the delay in meeting the deadline for the completion of work and notes the Tribunal's commitment to conclude trials of first instance by 2011 and appeals by the end of 2013.

As the report indicates, Rwanda will continue to cooperate with the ICTR in order to remove any obstacle to the transfer of cases that are still pending at the end of the ICTR mandate to Rwandan jurisdiction. Many legal reforms have been undertaken in that respect and have been recognized by the ICTR.

In the meantime, my delegation thanks the Tribunal for transferring to Rwanda the files on 25 suspects. Inquiries have been opened on those suspects without proceeding to an indictment, in order to enable us to undertake the appropriate legal procedures. In that regard, we reiterate the fact that our request to have the files of cases that have not yet been tried by the ICTR transferred is based mainly on the fact that the crimes tried by the ICTR were committed in Rwanda, by Rwandans against their Rwanda compatriots. Furthermore, it is appropriate to note that the evidence and the witnesses come from Rwanda, and that the justice carried out by the Tribunal will have a greater impact on Rwanda than on the rest of the world.

My Government welcomes the arrest of the three fugitives during the period under consideration: Grégoire Ndahimana, Idelphonse Nizeyimana and Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi, and we once again thank the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda for their cooperation in that respect. We also thank the ICTR for their continuing efforts to search for and arrest the remaining 10 fugitives. The Government also expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and France for their efforts to find and bring to trial genocide suspects who are in those countries. However, we regret that some countries have not yet extended the necessary cooperation to the ICTR or the Rwandan Government, and we therefore support the appeal of the President of the ICTR in that regard.

My Government has often reiterated its views on the transfer to Rwanda of the records of the ICTR at the end of its mandate. Our request is based on the fact that those documents are an integral part of our history. They are essential to preserving the memory of the genocide, as they will play an essential role in the education of future generations and in preventing

future genocides. We note the ongoing process to determine the final destination of those records, and we express once again our availability to join the United Nations discussions on the subject.

Allow me once again to express the concern of my Government on an issue of great importance, namely, the increasing trend of defence lawyers in Arusha and some members of the academic world to trivialize and openly deny the fact of the genocide, which nevertheless was recognized by the Security Council through the very establishment of the ICTR. Those jurists, who have spoken freely in the international media, base their remarks on a mistaken interpretation of the findings of the Tribunal, which is supported by the recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

That worrisome trend is not going to promote the peace and reconciliation that Rwandans have fought so hard to achieve. The Government therefore again calls for those who deny the genocide of Tutsis to be brought before justice in accordance with Rwandan law, a law that many other countries also have applied in other instances of genocide.

To conclude, we reiterate our call for the ICTR to continue its efforts aimed at respecting its completion strategy as far as possible, while ensuring that justice is done by transferring the remaining cases to Rwandan jurisdiction. Once again, we reiterate our full support for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda during this critical period of the conclusion of its work.

Mr. Maina (Kenya): My delegation congratulates the President of the Assembly on his election to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly at the current session. We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau and wish to assure the President of Kenya's full support as he discharges his task before the Assembly. I thank the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for a comprehensive annual report submitted to the Assembly (A/65/188) in conformity with the respective statute establishing the Tribunal.

Kenya, however, notes with concern the persistent allegations by the Prosecutor of the Tribunal that the fugitive Mr. Félicien Kabuga resides in Kenya. On numerous occasions, Kenya has stated its position on this matter before the Security Council and the General Assembly. That position was once again reiterated in June 2010 before the Security Council (see S/PV.6342).

I wish to state from the outset that Kenya has nothing to gain by harbouring Mr. Kabuga, especially when Kenya and Rwanda have always enjoyed excellent and cordial relations. To the contrary, we have always cooperated and worked closely with the ICTR with a view to tracing, arresting and indeed surrendering genocide suspects to the ICTR to face justice. It is important to mention that 14 suspects have been arrested and handed over to the ICTR for prosecution by the Government of Kenya. The Assembly may wish to note that this is the largest number of indictees to be apprehended and handed over to the ICTR by a single jurisdiction.

In September 2009, Kenya concluded an extradition treaty with the Republic of Rwanda, which provides, inter alia, for the extradition of Rwandan genocide suspects. The Government of Kenya has always played a key role in the relocation, protection and facilitation of movement of witnesses to the Tribunal in Arusha, to ensure that the cause of justice is served expeditiously. To that end, we have expended considerable resources in the form of material, equipment and personnel as a contribution to the rule of law and justice.

In 2007, the Government of Kenya formed a joint investigation team to search and apprehend Mr. Félicien Kabuga and to freeze his assets and bank accounts, including those of his associates in Kenya. That team discharged its mandate and submitted periodic reports of its findings to both the Kenyan Government and the Tribunal. Part of the team's findings was that Mr. Kabuga's wife had invested in real estate and rents collected were being submitted to a local financial institution. Further investigations revealed that those funds had been transferred and credited to the wife's bank account in Belgium, where Mr. Kabuga's wife and children reside and hold Belgian passports. Our attorney general promptly obtained orders from the high court to freeze the bank accounts in Kenya.

Joint investigations by Kenya and the ICTR into the alleged sightings of the fugitive in Kenya have yielded no fruit thus far. The joint investigation team continues to carry out its mandate with the full support of the Kenyan Government. The particulars related to the investigations and actions undertaken are known to

the Tribunal. Kenya therefore finds the persistent allegations that it shows complacency with regard to apprehending Mr. Kabuga misleading, malicious and lacking in merit. In this regard, we urge the ICTR and international agencies to broaden the search for Mr. Kabuga to include other jurisdictions.

In conclusion, my delegation reaffirms Kenya's commitment to upholding the rule of law. Kenya will continue to act closely with the ICTR in that regard.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): Let me start by expressing our appreciation to the Presidents of the two Tribunals, Judges Byron and Robinson, for their comprehensive and informative reports on the actions taken and progress made during the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010 (A/65/188 and A/65/205). My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union. However, I wish here to stress a few more items.

The Tribunals' determined performance, aimed at the unwavering prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, has served as a basis for an emerging culture of accountability and a constant reminder that severe crimes, regardless of who has committed them, will not go unpunished. Croatia welcomes the continued commitment of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (ICTY) to its completion strategy and the final conclusion of its work in accordance with its mandate and without sacrificing due process. In that context, Croatia supports endeavours by the President of the Court to further streamline and improve the Court's core functions in order to expedite its proceedings and make its work more efficient.

International ad hoc tribunals were never meant to replace national courts, but rather to strengthen them and help them properly fulfil their allotted functions. In that light and in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, Croatia supports calls on the ICTY to transfer all appropriate cases to competent national jurisdictions, thereby contributing to the success of the Tribunal's exit strategy. My country has clearly demonstrated its ability to conduct trials of even the most sensitive cases, including the one case that was transferred to it by the ICTY.

We are glad that the present report has confirmed Croatia's general responsiveness to the needs of the Office of the Prosecutor. Croatia is strongly committed to full and open cooperation with the Tribunal, as demonstrated by the close and intense working relationship established between the Office of the Prosecutor and the Croatian Government at all levels. We have taken concrete administrative, investigative and judicial measures in order to meet the requests of the Office of the Prosecutor to the maximum extent possible. These efforts were further recognized by the recent decision of Trial Chamber I in the *Gotovina et al.* case.

Let me express once again the deep concern of my country with the fact that two accused, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić, have continued to evade justice for much too long — in the case of Mladić, for more than 15 years. It must be made absolutely clear that the trial of those fugitives does not hinge on the Tribunal's completion strategy dates, and we urge Member States to do all within their power to ensure, as a matter of urgency, the apprehension of those fugitives and their transfer to the Court's custody. We fully share the President of the Court's view that the failure to bring those persons to justice will leave a stain on the contribution of the United Nations to peacebuilding in the former Yugoslavia and that it remains of grave concern to the proper administration of justice.

Croatia welcomes further cooperation between countries in the region in the processing of persons indicted for war crimes, as well as interaction between the Tribunal and the Office of the Prosecutor and competent national authorities responsible for war crimes prosecutions. In that context, we welcome the liaison prosecutors project funded by the European Union, which is designed to bring prosecutors from the region to work as liaison prosecutors within the Office of the Prosecutor.

Let me also express here our satisfaction with President of the Court Judge Robinson's visit to Croatia at the invitation of the President of the Supreme Court of Croatia. On that occasion Judge Robinson also met with the President of Croatia, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and other key national and international actors and discussed many important issues connected with Croatia's processing of domestic war crimes cases, the launching of the Legacy Project, the announcement of plans for a new

Legacy Conference, the status of the residual mechanism and plans to establish ICTY information centres in the region.

Finally, Croatia welcomes the work on residual issues by the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, including trials of the remaining high-profile fugitives. Croatia is particularly interested in finding just and practical solutions for discharging the Tribunals' residual functions related to the future of the Tribunals' archives, to liaison with the Office of the Prosecutor, and to exploring the modalities of serving the sentences. In that regard, we have found particularly rewarding the open and transparent discussions on those issues that have taken place under the Austrian chairmanship of the Working Group. We are following that discussion closely and stand ready to lend our full support and cooperation to the efforts aimed at finding the most appropriate and cost-effective solutions to these issues.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on the two agenda items. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda items 71 and 72?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform members that the plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit, originally scheduled for Monday, 11 October 2010 at 10 a.m., under agenda item 24 (a), "Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)", has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 13 October 2010, at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations

A/65/PV.28

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

28th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 12 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 111

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2010.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: Austria, Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Uganda. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in the year 2011 the following States: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria. The names of those States, therefore, should also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2011, three are from Africa and Asia, one is from Eastern Europe and one is from Latin America and the Caribbean. Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII), of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from Africa and Asia, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and two from Western Europe and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from Africa and Asia, one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates — their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled — receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, will be declared elected. If the number of candidates receiving a two-thirds majority is less than the number of members to be elected, we will proceed to a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, which should not be more than twice the seats remaining to be filled.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairpersons of the respective regional groups of the following. For the two vacant seats from among the African and Asian States, two candidates have been designated, namely, South Africa and India. For the

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one vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there is one endorsed candidate, namely, Colombia. For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, there are three candidates, namely, Canada, Germany and Portugal.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed.

May I ask representatives to write clearly on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if all the names of the Member States on that ballot do not belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper contains names of Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Babadoudou (Benin), Mr. Toba (Brazil), Mr. Kahiluoto (Finland), Ms. Satomi (Japan), Mr. Weydert (Luxembourg) and Ms. Stoica (Romania) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.

The President (*spoke in French*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
India	187
South Africa	182
Pakistan	1
Swaziland	1

Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	186
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	186

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Germany	128
Portugal	122
Canada	114

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2011: Colombia, Germany, India and South Africa.

The President (*spoke in French*): There remains one seat to be filled from among the Group of Western European and other States. We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

The second round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Western European

and other States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Canada and Portugal. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Canada or Portugal, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Babadoudou (Benin), Mr. Toba (Brazil), Mr. Kahiluoto (Finland), Ms. Satomi (Japan), Mr. Weydert (Luxembourg) and Ms. Stoica (Romania) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

The President (*spoke in French*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States	
Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Portugal	113
Canada	78

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Group of Western European and other States. We shall therefore proceed to the second restricted ballot.

The third round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Canada and Portugal. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "C" for Western European and other States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Canada or Portugal, or if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Babadoudou (Benin), Mr. Toba (Brazil), Mr. Kahiluoto (Finland), Ms. Satomi (Japan), Mr. Weydert (Luxembourg) and Ms. Stoica (Romania) acted as tellers.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada): The Canadian delegation wishes to withdraw its candidacy and to congratulate Portugal and Germany on their election to the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Canada for his cooperation.

Given the statement made by the representative of Canada, we shall now proceed with the restricted ballot in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

The President (*spoke in French*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Western European and other States	
Number of ballot papers:	185
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	184
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	182

Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Portugal	150
Canada	32

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following State was elected a member of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2011: Portugal.

The President (*spoke in French*): The following five States have thus been elected members of the Security Council for a mandate of two years, beginning on 1 January 2011: Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa.

I warmly congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 111.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.29

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

29th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 13 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 24

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Meeting devoted to the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with resolution 63/229, of 19 December 2008, the General Assembly will now hold a plenary meeting devoted to the consideration of the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit. I shall begin by making a statement on my own behalf.

Our plenary meeting today, 13 October 2010, is devoted to the follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit. This issue seems to me to be particularly relevant for at least two reasons. First, it is important to ensure that the issues brought to the international community's attention when an international year is proclaimed do not drop out of sight afterwards. Our credibility depends on it. The publication of the "Blue Book" and the establishment of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors have already represented important milestones in this regard.

In addition, this meeting is taking place just three weeks after the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. Microfinance has an essential role to play in efforts to achieve the Goals one need only cite the improvement in women's access to financial services, their consequent empowerment and the indirect positive effects this has on children's schooling and health care.

Microfinance is a key instrument for improving the living conditions of poor populations. The considerable growth of microfinance over the past few years can be described as a success. This development has been fostered by a strong partnership among Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. Innovative practices and new stakeholders have emerged. These developments are encouraging, but more needs to be done.

The report (A/65/267) of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty reveals a number of limitations. Geographical coverage is uneven and rural areas are still often excluded. In general, microfinance has difficulty reaching the poorest populations, which are precisely the ones at whom it is directed. Most significantly, another basic finding is that, while microfinance helps to improve the lives of the poor, it cannot lift them permanently out of poverty. Microfinance is not sufficient to generate productive activities. It does, however, have significant educational potential in terms of introducing poor populations to market mechanisms and activities, of which they know little.

We should draw lessons from the experience gained thus far so as to take better advantage of the potential of microfinance. Just as we developed the

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initial concept of microcredit into the concept of microfinance, the better to reflect the wider range of financial services offered, we should now take appropriate steps to give effect to the idea of inclusive finance, thus ensuring that the financial sector promotes the creation of jobs and productive activities, and is thus placed at the service of the poorest and of society as a whole.

To that end I invite the Assembly to consider the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report. I wish members a fruitful debate.

Mr. De Bassompierre (Belgium): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The candidate countries of Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this declaration.

Let me first thank you, Sir, for organizing this meeting of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the 2005 International Year of Microcredit. It is the EU's conviction that an inclusive financial sector, and in particular microfinance and microcredit, is a very important tool in the global effort to alleviate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). An inclusive financial sector and microfinance can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth as a basis for sustainable development, and can help lift poor people out of poverty, particularly women and rural populations.

Five years have gone by since the International Year of Microcredit, and the world has changed. In these five years, microfinance and microcredit have gained significant momentum, and the microcredit agenda has gradually evolved into a much broader approach of financial inclusion. Addressing the broader agenda of financial inclusion was one of the objectives of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors, established in 2006 as follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit. This change is reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, which refers to

> "Promoting inclusive financial services, particularly microfinance, and including affordable and accessible credit, savings, insurance and payments products for all segments of society, especially women, people in vulnerable situations and those who would not normally be served". (*resolution 65/1, para. 70*)

The Secretary-General's report (A/65/267) on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty and the annual report of the Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, offer an excellent base for broadening the debate. That is the approach we need to adopt in both the General Assembly and the Second Committee.

Financial inclusion means universal access at a reasonable cost to a range of financial services for everyone needing them, provided by a diversity of sound and sustainable institutions. Financial inclusion includes microfinance and microcredit, but also services related to savings, payments and remittances, as well as insurance for individuals, microentrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises. It helps increase productivity and creates income. It generates jobs. It also protects people against unforeseen shocks and helps them to manage cash flow and build assets over time. Having an inclusive financial infrastructure is very important for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Support to microfinance is part of the European Union's development cooperation. During the period 2005-2009, support for microenterprises and microfinance has been ensured through the EU Microfinance Framework Programme, with €15 million for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, in collaboration with investment in debt and equity for banks and microfinance institutions provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB). As of the end of 2009, the EIB group committed some €654 million to around 30 microfinance projects or intermediaries, including €26 million in grants for technical assistance. The European Union's new Microfinance Programme II, for the period 2010-2014, will support the microfinance sector in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries with €57 million, including €15 million from the tenth European Development Fund.

The EU is committed to continue supporting the establishment of an inclusive financial sector that provides appropriate financial services to poor households and microenterprises. The need for capacity-building — human resources and institutions — of microfinance institutions is of great

importance, as are private sector participation and effective partnerships. Responsible finance also comprises the promotion of financial literacy. These will be critical to the successful expansion of inclusive finance on a massive scale. The increased use of information and communication technologies solutions, such as branchless banking, offers considerable potential for broadening access through the use of cell phones, bank cards and banking agents such as retail stores and post offices. Prudential regulation should guarantee that financial services will be provided in a way that is transparent, responsible and to the benefit of clients.

At the same time, the European Union would also like to stress that financial exclusion is not only an issue for developing countries; problems of access to finance are also relevant in advanced economies. Sharing experiences on ways to improve financial inclusion is therefore of interest to all development partners. In this respect let me briefly mention the European Microfinance Platform, which aims to exchange best practices and policies regarding microfinance in developing countries by bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as from civil society. Two important initiatives are worth mentioning in this respect.

The first is the 2010 European Microfinance Week, which will be held in Luxembourg at the end of November, and the second is the third European Microfinance Award, which will be awarded on that occasion on 30 November 2010, with the objective of promoting initiatives in value-chain finance. The EU also welcomes the ongoing work of the Group of 20 (G-20) on financial inclusion and the G-20 principles for innovative financial inclusion, endorsed in Toronto.

To conclude, let me highlight that the EU looks forward to cooperating with other Member States, United Nations bodies and all relevant stakeholders to further promote universal access to financial services.

Mr. Shukla (India): Allow me to begin by thanking the United Nations and all those working tirelessly for the promotion of microcredit as a tool for the eradication of poverty.

The Secretary-General's report (A/65/267), submitted in accordance with resolution 63/229 and against the backdrop of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, is an insightful summary of the global microcredit experience, with valuable lessons for all of us. The development of microcredit and microfinance as a strategy to eradicate poverty was the central theme of the International Year of Microcredit in 2005. It is well recognized that microcredit and microfinance as policy platforms have contributed significantly to socio-economic development and poverty reduction, especially in developing countries.

As a market-based approach to fighting poverty, microfinance is focused on developing entrepreneurship and expanding self-employment. Microfinance institutions, which number more than 3,500 worldwide today, serve approximately 155 million people the world over. As microfinance institutions have demonstrated the sustainability of microlending, commercial banks have transformed the model into a major global industry. Between 2004 and 2008 these institutions experienced average annual asset growth of 39 per cent and accumulated more than $60 billion in total assets.

However, we remain concerned about the high rates of interest charged by commercial microfinance entities. Governments must address this anomaly through policy intervention. Microfinance schemes have also demonstrated their viability to bring about social change, especially the promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality. Many such programmes in the developing world are accompanied by social service schemes and act as social safety nets in times of crisis. The insurance schemes of microfinance provide inexpensive short-term coverage for life, health, property, livestock, crops and natural disasters.

India, which has the largest microcredit network in the world, has had significant success with the programme. In particular, I would like to mention the impressive performance of microcredit schemes being run by self-help groups in India, which today number around 2.2 million. Based on the microcredit model, we are also running micropension schemes for the informal sector, a large segment of our economy that otherwise could not have availed itself of social security benefits.

Notwithstanding the success of microfinance, we are well aware of its limitations as a poverty reduction strategy. But in the final analysis of things, going by our experience in India and what we have noted across the world, I must say that microfinance has been able

to play a significant role in dealing with poverty reduction and social development in developing countries. The financial and economic crisis has severely impacted the liquidity of microfinance institutions and has weakened their ability to offer innovative services. The crisis also led to the realization among Governments that it was time to move from a microcredit and microfinance regime to more comprehensive financial inclusion.

India has set a goal to make every village in the country financially included through mobile banks by 2015. The expansion of information and communication technology services has fuelled the growth of microfinance. The concept of branchless banking through mobile phones, bank cards and banking agents has met with particular success in developing countries. In the least developed countries and in Africa it has established direct channels for receiving remittances and has spurred the domestic mobilization of resources.

In conclusion, I would like to say that India is strongly committed to financial inclusion for all and calls for the further expansion of the microcredit and microfinance strategy for achieving poverty reduction and other Millennium Development Goal targets. I end with greetings to all co-workers throughout the world involved in this task.

Mr. Eggleston (Australia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Australian Government and am very grateful for the opportunity to address the General Assembly during this important follow-up to the 2005 International Year of Microcredit.

Australia sees the financial inclusion of the poor as essential to the reduction of poverty, sustainable development and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Some 2.7 billion adults around the world lack access to banking services.

Access to a wide set of financial tools, such as credit, savings products, payment and transfer services and insurance, helps poor people to increase their income and build assets. Through financial services, poor people can set up small businesses, insure against crop losses and save in case of illness or disaster. Microfinance is a particularly important tool for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Over two-thirds of microfinance clients throughout the world are women. When women are provided with access to finance, the whole household benefits. Women with access to microfinance can have greater control over their incomes and more power in household decision-making. Through microfinance programmes, women often gain new vocational skills, self-confidence and greater leadership, resulting in an enhanced ability to drive change within both the household and the broader community.

Australia supports financial inclusion initiatives across the globe, from the Pacific island countries of Papua New Guinea and, Timor-Leste, in the Asia-Pacific region,, to countries far outside our region, including Iraq, and Peru and Colombia in South America. Australia's approach to supporting financial inclusion is outlined in the document entitled "Financial services for the poor: a strategy for the Australian aid programme 2010-15", which was launched earlier this year. Through this strategy Australia will build the capacity of financial institutions to offer quality, affordable and fair financial services to the poor and assist Governments to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment. We will seek to utilize the potential of new technologies and we will support financial literacy programmes to help people in developing countries understand their finances and the services available to them.

It is clear that an enabling policy environment and a supportive legal and regulatory framework are essential for the sustainable growth of financial services to the poor. Governments play a crucial role in creating a policy environment that promotes the expansion of financial services while also protecting consumers against predatory service providers, including by ensuring effective interest- rate disclosure. Australia is working within the Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting to ensure that financial inclusion is high on the agenda for finance and economic ministers in our region.

Current work with our Pacific region partners is helping to facilitate the transfer of remittances and promoting the use of new technologies, including mobile phones for branchless banking. Technology such as mobile telephones, point-of-sale devices and low-cost automatic teller machines offer great potential in strengthening access to financial services, especially for the poor in rural and sparsely populated areas

where high transaction costs have impeded the development of traditional financial services.

When new technology is appropriately used, financial institutions no longer have to open numerous bricks-and-mortar branches to provide and expand services. In addition, new technology-based microfinance models can significantly reduce transaction costs as compared to conventional banking models. Innovative models of financial service delivery can provide a range of services previously unavailable to the poor, including savings, payments and transfer services. The Australian Government is committed to supporting institutions and fostering partnerships that push the frontiers of technology and innovation to expand the provision of financial services to the poor.

We also recognize the importance of supporting financial education. Financial education can provide the poor with the skills and knowledge needed to take advantage of financial opportunities and plan for the future. Financial education forms a vital cornerstone in ensuring that the poor are protected and treated fairly when using financial services. The lack of financial literacy is also a key contributing factor to over-indebtedness, which can push poor people even deeper into poverty.

Australia supports the efforts of the Group of 20 (G-20) to promote financial services for the poor and is pleased to contribute as co-Chair with Brazil of the G-20 financial inclusion experts group. The nine principles for innovative financial inclusion endorsed by the G-20 leaders in Toronto in June set important standards for financial access, financial literacy and consumer protection.

Australia will continue to work closely with our development partners to unlock the potential of financial services for the poor. Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to contribute to this important debate.

Mr. AlJarallah (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly today is today discussing one of the most important items on the agenda of theist sixty-fifth session, given the enormous and real challenge posed by the issue of eradicating poverty represents. It is a goal that requires us all to stand side by side in order to confront and eliminate it.

My country's delegation is pleased to convey its thanks to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his detailed report (A/65/267) on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), as well as and also for the important recommendations it provides for the purpose of facing up to the challenges posed by poverty and by trying to reach other relevant development goals.

We also extend our thanks to the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Mr. Kinder Yokels, and his team for the efforts they have exerted made in the preparation of a report on cooperation in the field of industrial development, which contains a thorough account of the latest developments in that area and of the obstacles encountered by the least developed countries that diminish their chances of entering to enter the global market for manufactured goods.

Three weeks ago in this Hall, a summit Meeting was held that brought together heads of State and Government to review progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At the summit, leaders committed themselves to make every effort and to double their donations to achieve the Goals by 2015. In that context, it is important that States continue to intensify their efforts to achieve Goal 1, namely, to reduce by half the number of people living in hunger and poverty.

That is still an important objective, despite discouraging number of indicators, showing that the number of poor people in the world rose to more than 1 billion in 2009. That increase was the direct result of the new challenges the world currently faces, such as the increase in food prices, fluctuating energy prices, other challenges, and the world economic crisis. All of that requires that we unite our efforts, consolidate the concept of global partnership and promote collective efforts by States in order to grapple with and eradicate the scourge of poverty.

The State of Kuwait has spared no effort to provide assistance to developing and least developed countries through its official and non-official institutions. Since gaining independence, in 1961, my country has been keen to provide assistance to the international community in order to ease human suffering in various parts of the world. As it has over the past 50 years, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has continued to provide grants and assistance to more than 100 countries throughout the world, including guaranteed concessionary loans in

excess of $14.5 billion. That is equivalent to 1.31 per cent of my country's gross domestic product, and double the internationally agreed official development assistance target.

Based on my country's firm belief in the vital and effective role of United Nations organs, the State of Kuwait is committed to providing annual voluntary contributions to a number of international and regional organizations and specialized United Nations agencies active in the areas of development and humanitarian assistance. My country has also undertaken initiatives aimed at stimulating economic growth and raising the standard of living in poor countries affected by the rise in the price of basic foodstuffs. To that end, in addition to cooperating with similar initiatives throughout the world, we have established the Fund for Decent Living, which is capitalized with $100 million for the purpose of supporting initiatives to speedily provide basic food staples to needy people and to contribute to programmes aimed at increasing the yield of agricultural crops. Kuwait has also allocated $300 million to combat poverty in Africa through the Islamic Development Bank.

The process of eradicating poverty requires diligent hard work and intensified joint efforts, in addition to sincere and serious commitment. It is high time for the international community to accomplish a tangible measure of progress in fulfilling its commitments. The most important thing we look forward to is for States to honour their obligations. We also hope that donor States will meet the promises they took upon themselves to provide financial and technical assistance and devote 0.07 per cent of their gross domestic product to official development assistance.

In the same vein, eradicating poverty requires a commitment from developing countries to put in place transparent financial, monetary and trading systems that are compatible with the demands of the world market and in line with the international financial system. They should also consolidate their capabilities in the field of macroeconomics, strengthen their national development strategies and undertake social and political reforms with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and securing the desired development.

Mrs. Wahab (Indonesia): Our meeting today takes on increased significance, as it follows on the heels of the General Assembly Meeting held three weeks ago to find ways to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite the multiple crises that have had a negative impact on the global economy, leaders at the MDG summit affirmed the need to achieve the Goals by 2015 and to bring an end to poverty. It was agreed that MDG 1, namely, to eradicate poverty and hunger, remained the most critical challenge to development at the global level. Accomplishing that MDG will have an effect on the attainment of most other MDGs.

Because of the capacity of microcredit and microfinance to create jobs and facilitate the business ambitions of the poor, the follow-up to the 2005 International Year of Microcredit provides a vital opportunity to successfully engage the challenge of poverty. The widespread use of such resources will therefore advance the MDG implementation process. It is for that reason that we have gathered here in the Hall today, to determine how best to maximize the use of microcredit and microfinance in poverty reduction.

Contrary to expectations, the existing model of development does not always work as efficiently as it could to combat poverty. In fact, the current global financial and economic crisis points to imbalances resulting from the operation of that model. There are too many have-nots. Indeed, development experts have pointed out that development that perpetuates inequalities will prove neither sustainable nor worth sustaining in the long run. Just and equitable distribution of national resources to promote economic growth and development will therefore, of necessity, respond to the special needs and problems facing the poor.

The recognition of that fact led to the declaration of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit. The Year brought about increased public awareness and understanding of the social and economic value of microcredit and microfinance. In addition, the following years have amply demonstrated that the strategic use of microcredit by developing countries can lead to the achievement of many targets set out in the MDGs, especially with regard to job creation. Given the importance of microcredit and microfinance in achieving MDG targets, Indonesia would like to highlight some pertinent points to justify intensifying their use in poverty reduction.

First, the poor must be given access to resources to overcome their severe deprivation. With increased access to financial resources and services, the poor in developing regions have been known to satisfy the health and educational needs of their children. Others have been able to set up microenterprises and achieve some measure of financial independence. To that end, Governments must ensure that the poor have better access to financial services. In addition, steps should be taken to promote financial literacy among the poor.

Secondly, the financial needs of smallholder farmers should not be ignored. They must be guaranteed access to resources so that agricultural productivity can be boosted. The importance of agriculture to the real economy cannot be overstressed — more so in the light of the recent food crisis, which had an impact on many poor nations.

Thirdly, the use of microcredit and microfinance should be gender-sensitive. As agents of development whose needs are often overlooked, due care must be taken to ensure that microcredit reaches into the lives of poor women. The availability of resources must match their contributions to economic development.

Indonesia has its own microcredit success stories to share. Our nation is on a development path that stresses economic growth with equity and social justice for all. Our awareness that biases in national economic and social policies can contribute to poverty have led us to strengthen our country's capacity to make maximum use of microfinance and microcredit. Microfinance is disbursed through formal banking facilities, such as the People's Bank of Indonesia, and through non-banking agencies that are managed by non-governmental organizations and self-help groups. These are important institutions because 98.5 per cent of Indonesia's business sector can be categorized as microenterprises. These facilities have therefore helped to keep poverty in check.

Our credit for the smallholders programme is among the projects in our national medium-term development plan for the period 2010 to 2014 that have had an impact on the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives in Indonesia. My country is committed to expanding the coverage of such credit beginning in 2011. In addition, the Government is also encouraging self-help groups and foundations, such as the Microfinance Innovation Centre for Resources and Alternatives foundation, to enhance poor peoples' access to credit offered by Indonesia's microfinance institutions. Owing to our policies and programmes designed to combat poverty, Indonesia's poverty rate fell from 16.7 per cent in 2004 — or 36.1 million persons — to 14.1 per cent in March 2009 — or 32.5 million persons. The goal is to reduce the poverty rate to 8 to 10 per cent by 2014.

Despite its successes, Indonesia recognizes that a great deal of work must be done to further reduce poverty through the strategic use of the microfinance sector, which is only now growing in significance at the global level. For its part, Indonesia will focus on the legal and regulatory framework to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its microfinance sector.

In light of this, as a State member of the Group of 20, Indonesia welcomes the Group's decision to foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment for innovative financial inclusion. At its summit in Toronto in June, the Group endorsed principles that will serve to increase the access of the poor to financial resources and services.

There are other tools that can be used to good effect. Indonesia believes that the United Nations "Blue Book", entitled *Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development*, provides the policy framework for countries to turn their microfinance commitments into concrete action. Equally important, valuable successes should be replicated where conditions and circumstances permit. In this way, Member States will advance efforts aimed at achieving the goals set out by the International Year of Microcredit.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): At the outset, I should like to welcome the convening of this important event, which offers us an opportunity to broaden and deepen the discussion on microcredit and microfinance, as well as inclusive financial sectors.

We are mindful of the fact that the General Assembly designated the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit and supported devoting that year to the ongoing challenge of eradicating poverty, which is also part of the Millennium Development Goals. Since that time, the General Assembly has underscored the importance of microfinance as an instrument for socio-economic development and regarded microfinance as a useful tool in the eradication of poverty.

Today, we hold this plenary meeting to consider the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit. This meeting takes place against the backdrop of the recent discussions held on the eradication of poverty in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. We are once again looking at the eradication of poverty with a specific focus on microcredit and microfinance. South Africa recognizes the role of microfinance as a catalyst for sustainable development and growth. Microfinance has proved to be a powerful tool to bring financial services to the poor, who would otherwise be excluded from them.

South Africa has undertaken a number of initiatives towards contributing to some of the undertakings related to the International Year of Microcredit. In ensuring that sustainable institutions are built to provide affordable and appropriate financial services for the poor in a sustainable manner, the South African Microfinance Apex Fund and the Micro-Agricultural Finance Initiative of South Africa were set up as wholesale finance and institutional development institutions to provide support to microcredit, agricultural and cooperative programmes. Other initiatives include the formalization of the cooperative banking sector through the Co-operatives Banks Act and the regularization of the activities of the Post Bank.

Promoting an inclusive financial sector and supporting sustainable access to financial services are central to South Africa's programme of developing and transforming the financial sector. The development of the financial sector in a manner that provides access to the poor can achieve economic growth, stimulate job creation, overcome social exclusion and reduce poverty. South Africa believes that microfinance will contribute to achieving its objectives of poverty reduction, employment creation and the empowerment of women. Hence, South Africa will continue its efforts to develop and grow a sustainable microfinance industry by providing the relevant technical support, funding and conducive regulatory framework, with a special focus on the poor and women in particular.

According to international estimates, women represent more than 70 per cent of all microfinance clients. This positive discrimination has multiplier effects for their families. Women have the burden of responsibility for providing their families with food, fuel and water. They should have access to financial services that allow them to shoulder their responsibilities with less uncertainty. By being able to engage in income-generating activities, women are able to provide their families with more stability, better access to education and, consequently, more opportunity to lift the next generation out of poverty.

South Africa shares the views of the Secretary-General in his report (A/65/267) that microfinance is part of a strategy to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. We agree that, with women largely excluded from the formal financial sector and subject to various forms of gender discrimination, there is an urgent need to deepen and broaden their inclusion in financial activity.

In conclusion, we believe that the continued value of this event is that we are able to talk about a topic that is immensely valuable to our efforts to promote access to microfinance, which has proved to be beneficial to our people in the fight against poverty.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): Nicaragua, like the rest of the world, has had to endure an international context characterized by the deep negative effects of the world economic and financial crisis. Although subject to these conditions, the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation led by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has been able to make progress in the fight against poverty — so much so that independent studies have announced that Nicaragua has reached Millennium Development Goal 1.

Nicaragua today is a nation free of illiteracy, enjoying free education and health care, with a school meal programme selected as one of the four best in the world by the Food and Agriculture Organization. We have also opened the doors to microcredit, putting particular stress on empowering women, especially in the area of agriculture, where we are pioneer grain exporters for Central America.

Historically, the Sandinista revolution gave women a primary role in all affairs related to development in Nicaragua. Today, the great majority of social projects — such as the ongoing microcredit empowerment programmes — are directed explicitly at Nicaraguan women. I refer in particular to the Hambre Cero and Usura Cero programmes; programmes to promote self-sufficiency in agricultural seeds and home savings; and other support programmes for the production of basic grains and for small- and medium-sized enterprises through agricultural financing.

These microcredit programmes not only give access to financing for their own development to hundreds of thousands of families — in other words, at least 1 million Nicaraguans — but are also accompanied by technical training with a holistic focus, which includes components to protect the environment.

All this has in turn created a virtuous circle through which the empowerment of the most dispossessed has strengthened the creation of jobs, the national production system and Nicaragua's economic infrastructure, playing a true buffer role to protect us from the worst effects of the economic crisis of 2009. Indeed, Nicaragua suffered one of the lowest levels of economic contraction of almost any country in the American continent. This would not have been possible if we had not broken with the neoliberal model and its Washington consensus, which promote deregulation, privatization and the minimization of the State, including its redistributive role.

As highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General, Governments can do much to build inclusive financial sectors to maintain macroeconomic stability through sound monetary and fiscal policies, infrastructure development and the promotion of access to financing for the poorest of the poor. Together with other development strategies focused on creating human capital and an enabling environment, this has allowed us to maximize the potential of microfinancing to eradicate poverty. The Nicaraguan revolution is a living example that, with political will, we can do things.

Ms. Wong (Singapore): I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address the General Assembly today.

The eradication of poverty promotes an indelible sense of peace and security. The architect of the Marshall Plan, George C. Marshall, said that "[w]ars are bred by poverty and oppression. Continued peace is possible only in a relatively free and prosperous world". Marshall was confronting the devastated and imbalanced landscape of European economies after the Second World War.

Today, a similarly daunting global landscape of poverty confronts us. In 2000, our leaders pledged to tackle the situation by committing to the Millennium Development Goals, but we remain far from attaining them. Rising commodity prices, internal and cross-border conflict and natural disasters are just some of the factors hampering developing countries' efforts to pull their populations out of poverty. Even among developed countries, there remains an underclass that has not been able to participate in the economic opportunities available to fellow citizens. It is a sad state of affairs that, in the twenty-first century, millions still lack access to such basic needs as food, shelter, health, education and security.

A reassessment of poverty eradication philosophy and methods is needed. Financing to provide individuals with access to food, shelter, health, education and security is important, but it is only one aspect of development assistance. The vision of Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of Grameen Bank, of putting "poverty in a museum" is underpinned by the philosophy that to raise people out of poverty we must empower them to pursue economic self-advancement. In Muhammad's model, financing in the form of microcredit is not used to fulfil the needs of the poor directly; rather, it is used to equip individuals with the means to provide for their own needs. In this way, financing is used as a tool to spur self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Singapore shares the philosophy that if we are to see sustained results from our efforts to raise people out of poverty, we must ensure that, first, there is broad access to economic opportunities created by growth, and that, secondly, individuals are equipped to tap into these opportunities. Fostering inclusive growth is a major thrust of Singapore's growth strategy for the next phase of our development. We have traditionally invested heavily in education, training and skills upgrading to enhance the employability of our workers. But we recognize that the lower-skilled and less educated face particular challenges in staying employed. To help these individuals improve their economic prospects, we need to motivate them to seek work and provide them with strong support to upskill and upgrade over time. For low-income families, we need to ensure that their children have full educational opportunities to help them break out of the cycle of poverty.

To encourage low-wage workers to seek work and stay in employment, Singapore introduced the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme in 2007. As its name suggests, the Scheme provides an income supplement to low-wage workers to encourage them to work regularly and to help them build up their retirement savings. In this way, the Scheme

supplements the income of low-wage workers while preserving the work ethic.

To complement the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme, Singapore launched the Workfare Training Support Scheme in July this year to help low-wage workers upskill and secure better jobs. It takes into account the specific challenges faced by low-wage workers in attending and completing training. Employers are given funding support to encourage them to send their low-wage workers for training. To encourage workers to complete their training, they are given training awards for completing the requisite skills modules. Low-skilled workers, particularly those without a secondary education, can receive customized training programmes that cover basic literacy and numeracy skills as well. All low-skilled workers, regardless of their employment status, have access to these customized training programmes. Community programmes to help low-income workers and families raise their aspirations form another critical aspect of our assistance efforts. Low-income families with young children can receive coaching on parenting skills, counselling and family support, and assistance in enrolling their children in kindergarten and childcare.

While poverty eradication is often an issue of internal rather than external factors, the task can be complemented by assistance from bilateral, regional and international partners. Singapore agrees that developed countries can and should provide strong support to developing countries, particularly the least developed, to raise their people out of poverty. For their part, developing countries should continue to take ownership of their own development, ensure good governance and view development assistance as a means to support their ultimate goal of self-reliance and self-sufficiency at both the macro and the individual levels.

For Singapore's part, it provides assistance to its external partners under the Singapore Cooperation Programme, which is administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Just as we believe that low-skilled, low-wage workers in Singapore are best helped by providing them with the skills to secure good jobs rather than financial handouts that run out over time, the Programme offers technical assistance to developing countries in building up their competencies in the areas most relevant and useful to them. Since 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme has organized training programmes for more than 70,000 participants from 169 countries in various areas including economic development, education, environmental management, urban development, health care, public administration and governance. To date, the Programme's total commitment has exceeded 400 million Singapore dollars.

Cooperation through regional institutions and initiatives — from the sharing of best practices to the creation of new economic opportunities through economic integration and liberalization — can also help accelerate the progress of efforts to raise people from poverty. The efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are a case in point. ASEAN has set itself a target to form an ASEAN economic community by 2015.

Towards this end, ASEAN decided last year to pursue an ASEAN connectivity initiative to deepen physical, communications, systems and people links among ASEAN countries. Greater ASEAN connectivity and the opportunities inherent in the creation of such networks will help to narrow the development divide between ASEAN member countries. ASEAN leaders have also pledged ASEAN's commitment to addressing socio-economic disparities and poverty by developing and implementing an ASEAN road map towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Singapore would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to working with its partners, both within and outside ASEAN, to help realize the MDGs by 2015 and to help eradicate poverty.

Mr. Almeida (Brazil): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this very important plenary meeting and to express my delegation's appreciation for the quality of the report presented by the Secretary-General (A/65/267) for our deliberations under agenda item 24 (a).

The eradication of poverty is not only an ethical imperative, but a key element of sustainable development strategies. In Brazil, social inclusion policies are at the heart of our development model, which associates economic growth with social justice and the distribution of income. They have also greatly contributed to mitigating the impact of the financial and economic crisis and to lay the basis for a quick economic recovery.

In order to make the progress achieved in the fight against poverty sustainable over time, it is our firm belief that multidimensional and integrated

programmes must be carried out by national Governments with the constructive engagement of international partners, including the United Nations system, respecting the principles of national ownership and leadership.

We believe that these policies must ensure the access of all to productive resources, opportunities and public services, enhance social protection and lessen vulnerability. Sustained and broad-based economic progress, coupled with social inclusion, is essential for boosting living standards and for eradicating poverty in a sustained manner. In that sense, increased access to microfinance and the provision of microcredit play an important role as effective measures aimed at generating income and self-employment for those normally excluded from the financial market. In Latin America, microfinance has developed into a true industry over the past three decades. Microcredit has been associated with conditional cash transfer programmes as an important tool for reducing economic and social vulnerability and dependency.

As rightly pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report, access to credit alone is insufficient for poverty eradication. Efforts must be made to promote an inclusive financial system that ensures the provision of useful, flexible and simple financing mechanisms for those who are most in need. The primary means of access to the formal financial system is the bank account. More often than not, however, people living in poverty are prevented from opening bank accounts for lack of sufficient income, assets or information. Those who cannot provide financial guarantees have to resort to informal credit markets and be subject to unfair repayment conditions and higher interest rates.

That is why the Brazilian Government launched the Banking Inclusion Programme, which created simplified bank accounts for low-income people without bank maintenance fees. Last year, the number of simplified accounts in Brazil exceeded 10 million. In addition, taking advantage of their massive presence throughout the country, lottery sale points and post offices were authorized to provide banking services that are used mainly by low-income people.

The role of microcredit in promoting gender equality and economically empowering women has also been highlighted in a number of United Nations documents, such as this year's Ministerial Declaration of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 54/4 of the Commission on the Status of Women. Today, more than 70 per cent of all microcredit clients throughout the world are women. Following global trends, women are the main microcredit clients in Brazil, and the participation of women as microfinance borrowers tends to grow in lower-income households. Thus, the role of women as entrepreneurs and in alleviating poverty becomes even more evident.

The recent crisis has highlighted the need to promote both poverty eradication policies and the responsible management of finances. Microcredit and microfinance, given their direct relation to production and entrepreneurship, respond to these two key demands. The United Nations system can play a key role in mobilizing resources and in providing technical support to developing countries in the creation and expansion of national microcredit programmes. A strengthened and well-funded United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) should take the lead in projects targeted at providing investment capital, capacity-building and technical advisory services in order to make available microfinance and foster local development.

The challenges related to poverty eradication may be many, but effective and successful stories can be found in developing countries themselves. The United Nations system, especially the UNCDF, should benefit from these experiences and promote their replication in other countries implementing their own microcredit programmes.

Mr. Gutiérrez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Peru recognizes microcredit and microfinancing as useful tools in the fight to eradicate poverty. Peru also recognizes their capacity to improve the living conditions of populations, especially those who, lacking access to basic financial services, can use microcredit to generate opportunities for self-reliance for their own benefit and that of their communities.

Peru has been very successfully implementing a comprehensive development programme based on an economic policy with the clear objective of generating growth and employment, maximizing the country's great potential and advancing social policy to consolidate poverty reduction and social inclusion with equal opportunities. Within this policy, the fundamental philosophy of microcredit and microfinance to promote the responsible development of the community by giving high priority to social

impact and protection, has an appropriate framework in Peru thanks to an environment of economic and financial legislation that favours it.

For example, in Peru in recent years the microfinance system has contributed significantly to improving access to the use of banking services and to decentralizing financial services, with a strong presence in geographic areas and market segments that are not usually covered by the financial system. Thus, the participation of these sectors in the financial system has grown, with high participation in investment and deposits, and covers more than 20 per cent of debtors and almost 15 per cent of depositors of the financial system in general. Banks working in this area have increased the number of branches and customers, who now number more than half a million people, by specializing in the sector of micro- and small companies. Loans to poor segments of the population are one fourth of all credits at the national level, with a high repayment rate of almost 95 per cent.

Peru believes that there is a relationship between the strategies to reduce such scourges as climate change, for example, and poverty eradication. For this reason, public policies should and must be established to fight both at the same time in a simultaneous and interdependent fashion. In that respect, Peru endorses the reference in the Secretary-General's report on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty (A/65/267) to the opportunities to promote the access of microfinance clients to clean energy sources. The report stresses that the majority of energy consumed by microfinance clients is, inter alia, for home cooking in poor areas.

As the President of Peru recently indicated in the current general debate,

> "Hundreds of millions of households in the world continue to use wood-burning stoves, thus driving deforestation and at the same time polluting the environment and causing serious bronchiopulmonary and nutritional problems among children. We propose to reduce the number of wood-burning stoves in Peru by 20 per cent by 2021 and to replace them with better stoves" (*A/65/PV.11*).

We believe that microfinancing institutions can play a major role in implementing this objective. I should indicate that Peru has acquired considerable experience in developing this initiative, which we will share with countries that request it. We also believe that, given the positive and direct impact of improved stoves on health and environmental preservation, the promotion of their use in poor and extremely poor sectors of the population should be included in development programmes of the United Nations.

While we recognize the usefulness of microcredit and microfinance with respect to the effects of the financial crisis, we believe that the principles of sustainability and social responsibility that they promote can and should be applied at the national and international macroeconomic levels, without losing sight of the fact that one of the fundamental missions of Governments should be to increase the scope of financial services, especially towards the most needy sectors.

Our country recently had the privilege of receiving a visit from one of the world's microcredit pioneers, Mr. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. The Peruvian Government gave him the highest national award because of his experience, work and ongoing commitment to the comprehensive and dignified development of those who have the least in this world. Together with him, we can say that the main purpose of a social enterprise is not to profit but to resolve the problems of its immediate environment for the common good. We believe that it is in this spirit that our Governments must continue to strive to make greater and better use of these important tools.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): Allow me to begin by declaring our alignment with the statements of Yemen and Nepal on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the least developed countries, respectively.

The follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit provides us with a unique opportunity for awareness-building, knowledge-sharing, and showcasing best practices and lessons learned in microcredit and microfinancing. It is a fact that the global financial and economic crisis, accompanied by a sharp increase in food and fuel prices and climate vulnerabilities, has put us into difficulties. It is unfortunate that more than 1 billion people were pushed under the poverty line in 2009 alone. According to the International Labour Organization, more than 30 million people will have lost their jobs by the end of this year. More importantly, income inequality between

rich and poor is rising rapidly, and the global economy appears to be skewed against the weak.

The global financial meltdown has become an excuse for a few developed countries to tilt towards protectionist sentiments and is impeding trade and exports from developing and least developed countries, forcing many into joblessness. Given the current trend in the external environment, it is projected that the number of poor will further increase.

However, it is dismal to note that many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, do not have the means to confront the burgeoning menace of poverty. We know that progress does not come only through foreign aid and assistance. Rather, the engines of growth are innovation, competition, competitiveness, participation and motivation. These can be developed through imparting education, providing technology and, more importantly, providing access to capital and hope for a decent living. Therefore, Bangladesh has practised the concept of microcredit and easy access to small-scale financing, and given hope and confidence to a large section of women who have become the engines of growth and social change in Bangladesh. Once they became economically active, both the birth and child mortality rates went down.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and since Bangladesh faced many difficulties, it practised microcredit financing widely. Instead of the traditional collateral that is essential for receiving credit, peer pressure and mutual guarantees for loan users, known as social collateral, are used as a risk management technique for such loans. They are the distinguishing element of microcredit.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, microfinancing was practised in the United States of America, mostly by churches. Later on it flourished, especially in Colombia, where the first microcredit bank was established in 1962. In Bengal, microcredit was widely practised, mostly by savings associations and charitable organizations, but hardly any of those survived in the long term as they were not institutionalized.

After Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a non-governmental organization (NGO) of Bangladesh, started microcredit financing in rural areas, but its coverage was low. However, in 1983 the first microcredit bank, known as the Grameen Bank, was established in Bangladesh. While the total number of borrowers of the Colombian microcredit bank was fewer than 600,000, there were more than 30 million in Bangladesh — 50 times more — and Grameen's newer methodology guaranteed nearly 99 per cent repayment of loans. In Bangladesh, thousands of NGOs — especially Grameen Bank, BRAC, the Association for Social and Health Advancement, Proshika, the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha and BURO Bangladesh — have been involved in microcredit financing, and the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, an autonomous Government agency, has been providing money to NGOs for microcredit lending.

When all is said and done, it is the Grameen Bank and its founder, Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, who have steadfastly popularized microcredit financing throughout the globe. It offers an alternative model based on the neoliberal tenets of individualism and the free market. Bangladesh has championed microcredit as a free-market development tool that empowers the poor by encouraging and enabling them to participate in and grow their own economies. The concept of microcredit has remained the most widely replicated credit-lending programme in the world, in spite of its high lending rates. Microcredit has helped to persuade the world that the poor are innately capable of working their way out of the morass of poverty with dignity, and that they have the creativity and capacity to improve their own situation.

The contribution of microfinance to asset creation, employment generation, the provision of economic security and the empowerment of the poor, particularly women, is widely acknowledged and considered to be a good instrument for poverty alleviation. However, graduation from poverty to a higher income-generation level through microcredit is yet to be proved very successful. The problem is that, although 30 million people of Bangladesh are covered by microcredit financing, the poverty level is still at 32 per cent. It is no wonder that at times microcredit becomes a debt trap without adequate safeguards.

Poverty reduction has been the most challenging task before the global leadership. With more than 1 billion people living on less than $1 a day, in spite of its weaknesses microcredit could be a powerful tool for attaining millennium targets, particularly that of halving extreme poverty by 2015. The poorest can benefit from microfinance in terms of increased

incomes, primary health care, basic education and reduced vulnerability to natural disasters, provided its weaknesses can be reduced.

It is critically important that the poor get access to all factors of production, including credit. The case for microfinance as a mechanism for poverty reduction is simple. If access to credit can be improved, the poor can finance productive activities that will accelerate income growth and other economic activities. Microcredit has proven its potential to be the most cost-effective development tool. It has helped to convince the world that people living in poverty are innately capable of working their way out of it with dignity and that they have the skills and creativity to improve their lives, provided they have the opportunity. This is an innovative contribution that Bangladesh popularized in development thinking.

Microcredit has revolutionized rural people's attitudes towards women. It has proven to be one of the most successful measures for involving women in economic activities. Statistics suggest that microfinance clients are overwhelmingly women. Their number has now reached 90 per cent of total borrowers. The philosophy of providing microcredit to women is that, in order to rise out of poverty, a woman needs all kinds of inputs and support services and structures. In our country, women default on loans far less often than men, and credit extended to women has a much greater impact on household consumption and the quality of life of children.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The issue of microcredit has been factored into our Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. A set of recommendations have been put forward to make it more effective in poverty reduction. It must have specific targets and product designs to achieve a positive impact on the ultrapoor. Innovative approaches should be introduced with respect to bringing changes to credit delivery mechanisms, diversifying financial services and complementing microfinance with non-financial interventions. Microcredit is also seen as one of those instruments that, by stabilizing conflict-ridden societies, would help drain the marshes that produce thoughts and acts of terrorism.

As we become increasingly engaged in peacekeeping responsibilities in strife-torn parts of the world, microcredit can play a significant role in sustaining peace by creating jobs. The General Assembly, the Security Council and the international financial institutions have all acknowledged the efficacy of microfinance as an effective anti-poverty tool. As is evident from the news from the field from all parts of the world, it works, if of course the right wherewithal is provided. We now need to provide that. It must include the necessary legal, financial and social framework if microfinance or microcredit is to work effectively.

Over the past two decades, microfinance programmes have rapidly spread worldwide. The *State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign Report 2006* found a nearly sevenfold increase in the number of clients with loans. Rising from 13.5 million clients in 1997, credit reached 113 million in 2005; 82 million of these are poor and living on less than $1 a day.

Credit may be the primary requirement of the poorest of the poor, but credit alone is not sufficient to alter their fate. Finance must be accompanied by entrepreneurial training. This product should be packaged with a basic knowledge of hygiene, health, social rights and responsibilities, and education to maximize its benefits. If done right, microfinance can unleash the huge potential of the poor and bring about a sea-change in their lives, lifting them out of the poverty trap.

Poverty anywhere is poverty all over. Hence, eliminating poverty and attaining prosperity is a treasured dream and a revered duty for all of us. It is the boundless pursuit of justice, equality and fairness. Let us fight for a world that is free from hunger, want and deprivation. Together, we can banish extreme poverty in our own generation. Let me echo the call of Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank: "Let us put poverty in a museum". I look forward to a new impetus in the development process resulting from this year's discussions, debates and resolutions of the United Nations.

Mr. Kim Chang Mo (Republic of Korea): The microfinance movement has quietly changed the world ever since the first microloans were introduced in the developing world in the 1970s. The international community held a microcredit summit in 1997. Later, the United Nations declared 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit. In 2006, Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank received the Nobel Peace Prize for their contributions.

Now, more than $25 billion are currently at work in microfinance loans. During the past four decades, microloans have proven the strong potential of tiny innovative measures to change the lives of the poor. In those years, the characteristics and trends of microloans have changed, and we are realizing that they are not a cure-all in eradicating poverty. The reality of microcredit and microfinance is very complex. In this regard, we appreciate the Secretary-General's useful report (A/65/267), which identifies the achievements and limits of microcredit and microfinance as a poverty-eradication strategy.

Taking this opportunity, the Republic of Korea would like to highlight the following points that we think are important in terms of policy guidance. First, we think that microloans have other effects, such as social protection and social inclusion, but that they should first be seen as a tool for economic growth and development strategy. Three weeks ago, our leaders proclaimed that promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This means that the economic growth we harness must be pro-poor, inclusive and equitable, and allow all people, especially the poor, to participate in the process and equitably enjoy its benefits. We believe that microfinance is one of the most important tools in ensuring that the poor can participate in and share the outcome of economic growth.

Secondly, despite the first point, we believe that the impact of microfinance should not be overestimated. As studies show, microfinance usually does not have much impact on the poorest, who do not have the ability to repay the loans, and that it sometimes ends up adding to their debt burden. Microfinance benefits those with existing businesses and who are a little wealthier than the poorest. Therefore, we need carefully to develop a national development strategy based on a deep understanding of where microfinance is useful and where grants are most needed.

Thirdly, as the report points out, even though strengthening the transparency of microfinance institutions and improving the regulatory framework are important, the framework should not hamper the innovative nature of microfinance, but allow diverse institutions and bank agents to deliver varied and flexible financial services. In this regard, we again have to emphasize that it is the primary responsibility of each Government to keep the delicate balance and proportionality between expanding access to financial services and ensuring safety.

Finally, we would like to add that the Group of 20 (G-20) has launched two sub-groups of the Financial Inclusion Expert Group: one on access through innovation and the other on financing for small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Expert Group is also developing an action agenda to be issued during the upcoming G-20 Seoul Summit. The Republic of Korea recognizes that financial inclusion is a core issue, and we will contribute to the discussion, especially in order to come up with effective measures for enhanced capital flow for small- and medium-sized enterprises. We hope that that effort will also be a sound basis for the United Nations and other forums to promote financial inclusion, including microcredit and microfinance, and contribute to poverty eradication.

Mr. Habib (Lebanon): My delegation thanks the President for organizing this timely meeting, allowing the international community to take stock of national, regional and international initiatives to promote microcredit and microfinance. If somebody received a $1,000 loan, what would they do with it? It may not seem like a great deal of money but, for hundreds of millions of people throughout the world, it represents several times their annual income. For Rabiaa Al Wass, a Lebanese businesswoman from the Bekaa Valley, $1,000 enabled her to open a clothing store rather than sell door-to-door. For Zaki Bou Farhat, a farmer from South Lebanon, $1,000 helped him obtain a herd of 12 cows and produce organic dairy products for commercial use. Those are examples of microcredit loans.

In Lebanon, microcredit loans have been available since 1990. An estimated 30,000 Lebanese citizens, like Ms. Al Wass and Mr. Bou Farhat, have benefited from such services. In 2004 the Central Bank of Lebanon launched an initiative to encourage banks to use up to 5 per cent of their loan reserves to extend small loans in Lebanese pounds. The figures and various initiatives demonstrated the need for a multifaceted approach, a comprehensive strategy, and a national lead initiative to identify priorities and ensure social and economic viability. Such actions need to be complemented by a regionally and internationally conducive environment.

In that context, my delegation would like to focus on the following areas: first, increasing awareness of microcredit and microfinance. The year 2005, declared as the International Year of Microcredit, marked the global recognition of microcredit as an enabler of economic and social development. There is no doubt that the International Year created considerable momentum. A year later, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the father of microcredit, Professor Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, and to Grameen Bank. Just a few weeks ago the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals called for:

> "Expanding access to financial services for the poor, especially poor women, including through adequately funded microfinance plans, programmes and initiatives supported by development partners" (resolution 65/1, para. 23).

This is seen as a way to accelerate progress. The outcome document is also evidence of increased public awareness and understanding of microfinance and microcredit as vital parts of the development equation.

Secondly, with regard to promoting strategic partnerships and inclusive financial sectors with sustainable access, we cite the Blue Book project entitled "Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development" as an example of new partnerships, bringing together the United Nations and a multilateral agency group representing the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Labour Organization. Additionally, in 2009, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor began an effort to measure financial inclusion in an annual publication entitled "Financial Access". The 2010 report shows an increase in the number of deposits per 1,000 adults and reflects increased access to financial services. Also, in 88 per cent of the economies surveyed, financial regulators were responsible for at least one element of financial inclusion, which includes consumer protection, financial literacy, microfinance regulation and savings, as well as small- and medium-sized enterprise and rural finance promotion. Indeed, in an address to the Second Committee last week, Professor Robert Shiller of Yale University spoke of the democratization of finance, manifested by a surge in microcredit and other instruments such as weather insurance for smallholder farmers.

Thirdly, with regard to alleviating the impact of the economic and financial crisis, it is certain that the ongoing economic and financial crisis has affected microcredit and financial inclusion. The 2010 Financial Access report notes a decrease in financial outreach owing to the closing of bank branches as a result of the crisis. We therefore call on donors to continue their contributions, so as to ensure the sustainability and predictability of funds in order to help eradicate poverty, increase social inclusiveness and ultimately empower poor and marginalized people.

Fourthly, with regard to ensuring peace, security and stability, we can say that microcredit and microfinance, like other investments, are more likely to prosper in a peaceful, secure and stable environment. In that context, my delegation notes that in countries affected by armed conflict, other non-economic external factors may also hinder progress. For example, in 2006, during the war waged by Israel against Lebanon, Ms. Al Wass' store was severely damaged and could not be reopened. Mr. Farhat's entire herd was killed by a bomb and his home was partly demolished. Had the war not occurred, imagine how the $1,000 investment in each case would have reinforced entrepreneurship and expanded self-employment. Imagine that any additional loans would have generated even greater development, creating a social safety net, not only for those individuals but also for all their families.

Microcredit has proven effective in improving livelihoods "by easing the management of expenses and preventing further hardship" (A/65/267, para. 28), as stated by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his report. The challenges facing microcredit are enormous. We thus must show equal determination in ensuring that more and more of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, are receiving credit for self-employment and other financial and business services. We also echo the Secretary-General's call that efforts to promote microcredit and financial inclusion must be complemented with interventions that further address aspects of poverty, such as investments in health and skills training.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is pleased to take part in this debate on promoting sustainable development and eliminating poverty, issues to which my country, with the King at its head, accord strategic importance and priority. I should also like to take this opportunity to hail the commitment of the Secretary-General, who took an active part in the success of the high-level meetings on the Millennium Development Goals, biodiversity and on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Today, we are meeting at a crossroads that comes on the eve on the holding of two conferences in Nagoya and Cancún.

The new orientations in development adopted by my country are reflected, first of all, in the national strategy for protecting the environment and sustainable development, in the implementation of the National Plan of Action on the environment, in the 2020 Rural Development Strategy and the launching of the human development initiative. The 2020 Rural Development Strategy is a specific pillar in the country's overall development. Its implementation is based on the convergence of policies that can provide suitable responses to the many social problems faced in rural areas. The Strategy has as its central goal creating the most favourable conditions so that rural populations can accede to a dynamic process that will enable us to remedy imbalances.

The Moroccan Government's action when it comes to combating poverty is based on two pillars: first, the deployment of basic infrastructure throughout the country, and secondly, the adoption of a targeted approach to combating poverty, based on specific results. The initiatives undertaken have allowed us to reduce poverty, which has moved from 19 per cent in 1998 to 11 per cent in 2006, a fall of almost 50 per cent. A number of national initiatives have been launched as part of this and are reflected in the establishment of a social development agency and implementation of a national initiative for human development.

This initiative, inspired and launched in 2005 by the King, is an innovative approach to combating poverty and developing marginalized areas. The four benchmarks of this initiative are as follows: guaranteeing decent living conditions for the most vulnerable; building a social project to promote global coherent and comprehensive development; mitigating the negative impact of poverty; and taking advantage of foreign experience in terms of combating poverty and exclusion. This initiative seeks to reduce poverty and social exclusion through actions of support dedicated to income-generating activities, capacity development, and improving conditions of access to basic infrastructure and services. A meeting to take stock of the progress achieved through this initiative will be held in the days to come with the participation of international and national experts to assess the impact of this initiative on poverty reduction and also to exchange good practices.

To effectively combat poverty my country has steadfastly strengthened its national financial institutions and improved conditions for access to financing. Here, as part of the process of creating small and medium enterprises, microcredit for the poor population has been launched. Microcredit, a recent financial mechanism, meets the urgent needs of the poor population to accede to financial resources. The number of microcredit loans granted to the poorest of the population in Morocco in the last few years has reached a value of €29 million, a rise of more than 81 per cent compared to previous years. The creation by the Moroccan Government of a consultative council of microcredit is proof that the establishment of a legal framework for promoting microcredit shows a will to persevere in combating social exclusion. In Morocco, microenterprises allow 60 per cent of the active population, or 6 million people, to receive jobs. This microactivity, which is a response to informal banking modalities, is suitable for a large network of small enterprises. I must stress here, and echo the statement made by my colleague, the Ambassador of Bangladesh, that the status of women who benefit from microcredit is growing, as has been shown — and I think this must be credited to the perseverance of women — by the fact that women have achieved much better results when they receive microcredit loans.

The multiple threats facing our world environment have had serious repercussions on the growth of poverty, significantly hampering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A close correlation exists between poverty and the promotion of sustainable development. The declaration adopted at the end of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals at the start of the current session was an important step in assessing the opportunities and obstacles for the attainment by all of the Millennium Development Goals. A short-term follow-up will undoubtedly consolidate the process of achieving those goals. In that context, it is important to envisage a review and evaluation on a yearly basis of these goals.

Mr. Zinsou (Benin) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to say how pleased I am to be able to take the floor today on behalf of my country, the Republic of Benin, on the occasion of the current plenary meeting devoted to outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit. I should also like to take this opportunity to compliment the United Nations Secretary-General on his comprehensive report and, above all, for the relevant analysis and the

recommendations contained therein, which are very much in step with resolution 53/197, whereby the General Assembly declared the year 2005 the International Year of Microcredit.

Anxious to combat all aspects of poverty and social exclusion, which affect the majority of the Benin population, particularly in rural areas, the current Government of my country has, since coming to power, adopted a plan and strategy, the main pillars of which are as follows: consolidating the macroeconomic framework; developing human capital and environmental management; enhancing governance and institutional capacities; and promoting sustainable jobs and enhancing the capacities of poor people to take part in the decision-making and production processes through better access to microcredit. Microcredit seeks, above all, to enable the majority of the poorest people and those bereft of financial resources to engage in income-generating activities. Such loans have proven their worth in a number of Asian countries as an effective way of awakening the dormant capacities of human capital and have in many cases led to spectacular gains in record time in terms of gains in income per capita.

On 27 February 2007, the Benin Government, inspired by this commendable performance, launched a major initiative called the Microcredit Programme for the Poorest, to the tune of 10 billion CFA francs or $20 million and appointed a young woman with exceptional qualities to the post of Minister of Microfinance to manage the Programme. This Ministry is supported in implementing this programme by partners such as the Regional Solidarity Bank, community associations and non-governmental organizations. Since then, the Microcredit Programme for the Poorest has empowered close to 600,000 people, the majority of whom are urban and rural women. The momentum generated by the Government's initiative and its impact on improving the living conditions of the poorest, particularly of women, has led the State to pursue its efforts of financing and oversight. The Programme, which is expanding, has thus far received a mobilization of funds of close to 32 billion CFA francs or close to $64 million, and people keep coming back for more. Innovations focusing on illiteracy, microinsurance and mutual health insurance have also been introduced into the Programme, as has biometric technology, the goal of which is to promote professionalism and the security of funds. Our Government, whose short-term goal is to extend the Programme to at least 1 million people, is endeavouring to marshal more resources for it in the current context, which is marked by the repercussions of the international economic and financial crisis, which has seriously affected the country's economy. That is one of the concerns that should be addressed during our current debate, namely, how to help countries that have enjoyed success in developing microcredit to acquire funds at favourable rates that would enable the granting of credit to people who need it most.

In the light of its experience, Benin calls on the international community to support the approaches adopted by the developing countries with regard to monitoring administrators and recipients of microcredit, above all in the drafting of effective regulations governing this promising, albeit very vulnerable, sector with its close links to informal networks. The disparities and irregularities recently detected in a number of African countries, which have had a damaging impact on the people concerned, including in Benin, undoubtedly demonstrate the rationality of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General on that subject in his report. We cannot deny the need to adopt and implement appropriate regulations as part of a global approach aimed at increasing the supply of financial services available to people living in poverty, at strengthening the coordination of financial policy, and at responding to the complexity of the problems raised by this type of financial product.

As Benin stressed a few days ago in the Sixth Committee, we can only welcome the inclusion on the agenda of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law of the issue of the harmonization of microfinance legislation. The studies to which the work of the Commission will lead will allow us to better define the contours of microfinance, which is an important instrument for promoting development and to maximize its impact and contribution to the promotion of sustainable human development in all countries.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 24.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.30

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

30th plenary meeting
Thursday, 14 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 7

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Second report of the General Committee (A/65/250/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010; revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading G (Disarmament).

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the agenda of the current session under heading G?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Committee further decided to recommend that the item be allocated to the plenary and to the First Committee, on the understanding that, in the plenary, the Assembly would hold the debate on the item and the First Committee would consider any proposals on the item.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to allocate this item to the plenary and to the First Committee, on the understanding that, in the plenary, the Assembly will hold the debate on the item and the First Committee will consider any proposals on the item?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): The item entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010; revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" becomes item 162 on the agenda of the current session.

The Chairman of the First Committee will be informed of the decision just taken by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the second report of the General Committee.

Agenda items 62 and 12

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/65/165 and A/65/167) and notes by the Secretary-General (A/65/62 and Add.1)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/65/152)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

10-58121 (E)

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2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/65/210)

The President (*spoke in French*): Our debate today will be devoted to several topics of importance to Africa. I believe that this is particularly opportune. I hope that our discussion, along with the excellent reports prepared by the Secretariat, will form part of the follow-up to the summit on the Millennium Development Goals. It is essential that throughout the sixty-fifth session our discussions should reflect the importance of these themes, in order to maintain the political momentum for the achievement of the Goals that was generated at the summit. Today we have a good opportunity to do this.

Achieving the goals of the Global Malaria Action Plan has an impact on almost all the Millennium Development Goals. The issue is critical: every year, nearly a million people fall victim to malaria, mainly in Africa, and this is simply unacceptable. It is therefore important to support the efforts of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which provide good examples of partnership and coordination between the various bodies and institutions of the public and private sectors which are active in this field.

With regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, established in 2001, the report of the Secretary-General on its implementation offers a number of positive elements: progress has been made, overall, in implementing the Partnership, and the establishment of a new planning and coordination mechanism should lead to increased managerial efficiency.

However, the report stresses the need to devote increased financial and technical resources to certain priority areas — particularly agriculture — in order to increase the potential of African countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The need to do more for the empowerment of women and for the establishment of a business climate more favourable to the development of the private sector is also stressed.

I invite the Assembly to consider and comment on all the conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General. I believe that it is important to stress that the recommendations call for a true spirit of partnership, since they are addressed both to development partners and to African countries.

The same spirit is found in the proposal for an improved monitoring mechanism to review commitments for Africa's development. Five years before the deadline of 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, increased monitoring is essential in order to ensure that mutual accountability is not a meaningless phrase and that the commitments undertaken have concrete effects for disadvantaged populations.

The proposed mechanism is based on existing processes — this should be stressed — and its value added will derive primarily from leveraging the political authority and legitimacy of the General Assembly.

The report of the Secretary-General describes various options and makes a number of recommendations concerning possible institutional arrangements, whether the monitoring process is placed under the authority of the General Assembly or under that of the Economic and Social Council. I invite you to share your views on the various options proposed. Resolution 63/1 calls for the establishment of an improved review mechanism during the sixty-fifth session. It is my hope — and I promise to do my utmost — that real progress will be made in this regard.

Many aspects raised in the two reports, particularly the importance of partnerships, are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Going forward, this in-depth report stresses that certain areas require increased attention and that during the decades to come some aspects will constitute real challenges, particularly small-scale conflicts within States triggered by the exclusion of significant portions of the population from participation in political institutions and from access to economic resources.

The activities of the United Nations will focus increasingly on the question of social justice. The report calls on the United Nations to acknowledge the limitations of its action and the need to cooperate and better coordinate with regional organizations, local governments, civil society and the private sector.

I hope that today's debate will make a constructive contribution to those various issues, which are of fundamental importance for Africa's development.

Mr. Charlier (Belgium): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro; as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

Despite many unresolved challenges in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, Africa has over recent years demonstrated impressive progress in the areas of peace, political governance and economic growth. But Africa, like no other continent, remains heavily affected by the challenges of food security and climate change.

The Joint Africa-European Union Strategy agreed in 2007 forms the basis of our steadily expanding cooperation. The upcoming third Africa-European Union Summit, to be held in Libya on 29 and 30 November, will build on the political framework provided by the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy and add fresh impetus to our future cooperation.

A basic premise of the European Union's partnership with Africa is the continent's responsibility for its own development. Similarly, this is the core principle of the African Union's socio economic programme.

Support from the international community must be aimed at helping African institutions and African countries develop their capacities to promote continental, regional and national projects and to mobilize the necessary resources for the priorities identified. Our aim is to support Africa's own political and economic integration agenda, through regional trade and political partnership, and to strengthen the links between regional economic communities.

The European Union recognizes the added value of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the definition of continental projects and as monitor of commitments towards African development needs, including in such areas as governance and agriculture, where NEPAD has taken the lead with the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. In this context, we welcome the recent embedding of the NEPAD programme within the structure of the African Union and its Commission.

The promotion of democratic and transparent systems of government and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are key components of the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy. The aim of the partnership in this area is to facilitate an open, broad-based dialogue on all pertinent issues, including human rights and the full enjoyment of such rights by all women, men and children. Democracy and democratic governance must form part of this dialogue, too.

Within the framework of this partnership, the European Union will soon launch with our African partners a joint platform for dialogue on governance, to strengthen the Africa-European Union dialogue on a number of key issues regarding democratic governance and human rights.

Here, one issue that I would like to draw particular attention to is the situation of women in Africa. Women's rights and opportunities are fundamental for peacebuilding, economic growth, development and well-being, and there are now a number of continental initiatives under way to do something with more impact in these areas, including the ongoing Africa-UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls.

As part of our commitment to a strong partnership for development in Africa, the European Union recently reaffirmed its commitments to reach a collective official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income by 2015, channelling at least 50 per cent of its collective aid increases to Africa.

The European Union also continues to work on improving coherence among EU policies in the areas of resource mobilization and more effective development assistance.

Trade is a prerequisite for economic growth and sustainable efforts against poverty. Together we must continue promoting a market-oriented world trading system. Access for African goods and services to international markets needs to be improved. A successful conclusion of the Doha Round is crucial and remains a top priority for the European Union. The

ability to seize the business opportunities that international trade offers also needs to be enhanced.

Health in Africa remains another major challenge for us all. Africa continues to face a huge burden of potentially preventable and treatable diseases, which cause avertable deaths and untold suffering, while blocking economic development and damaging the continent's social fabric.

We know that malaria — alongside other diseases such as HIV/AIDS — inflicts a heavy burden on Africa. But, as the World Health Organization (WHO) report transmitted by the Secretary-General notes, significant progress has been made in the global fight against malaria in recent years, including in Africa. Countries such as Rwanda, Eritrea and Zambia have shown how long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets, effective artemisinin-based treatment and indoor spraying with insecticide can achieve impressive results. A clear focus on effective interventions, adequate funding and political determination has proved to be successful.

However, as the WHO report also notes, significant financial gaps remain despite financial commitments to malaria control increasing fivefold over the period 2003-2009, with a particularly large increase last year. As the world's largest donor both in general and in the health sector in particular, the European Union will continue to lead the global efforts to sustain financial commitments in response to malaria, and will work through national Governments, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and mechanisms, including non-governmental organizations.

In this regard, the European Union welcomes the $11.7 billion raised through the Global Fund replenishment conference for the next three years, with the European Union and its member States representing over 30 per cent of this commitment.

Combating diseases such as malaria, through strengthened national health systems, will, in our view, be one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty and promote equitable and sustainable economic progress. We need to further invest in the health workforce and build capacity for prevention, treatment and care, which will also help us accelerate progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4, concerning child health, MDG 5, concerning maternal health, and MDG 6, concerning combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The European Union continues to work closely with African Governments to enable them to fulfil their commitment to allocate 15 per cent of State budgets to health, in line with the 2001 Abuja Declaration.

To conclude, the European Union is fully committed to supporting African countries and their peoples in their quest for peace, democratic governance and human rights and sustainable development. Partnership in these fields is a contribution to peace and stability in Africa, too, because it addresses the root causes of conflict. The European Union will continue to support the positive developments of the last decade.

Despite slow progress in many areas, the recent High-level Meeting on the MDGs showed us that achieving the MDGs in Africa is possible if we accelerate our efforts for the final stretch leading up to 2015.

Mr. Al-Saadi (Yemen): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China on agenda item 62.

The year 2010 has been a remarkable one for the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It will be recalled that extensive efforts to integrate NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU finally culminated in the decision of the fourteenth AU summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to formally establish the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as a technical body of the African Union.

As mandated by the African Union Assembly decision, the Agency's role as a planning unit will be to aim to facilitate and coordinate implementation of continental and regional programmes, and mobilize resources for the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects. The Agency's role in conducting and coordinating research and knowledge management will be to create an enabling environment to achieve food security and agricultural development in the next five years.

We have had the opportunity this year to reflect on the situation and challenges of the African continent. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), held from 20 to 22 September, was one such

occasion, when the Group of 77 and China stressed the need for the international community to be

> "fully committed to assisting those countries that are lagging behind, especially the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States, as well as Africa." (*A/65/PV.4, p. 55*)

In their thirty-fourth Ministerial Declaration, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 and China recognized the special needs of Africa, and called for the full and timely implementation of all commitments so as to enable African countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The Ministers further recalled the commitment of all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments by the international community related to the development of Africa, as contained in the political declaration on Africa's development needs, and stressed that all commitments to Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and Africa itself.

The Ministers underlined the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. To that end, they underscored the urgent need to address the special needs of Africa based on a partnership among equals, and underlined the need to provide new additional resources, technology transfer and capacity-building to African countries, and to support their sustainable development.

Today, five years from 2015, the target date for achieving the MDGs, Africa unfortunately remains the only continent not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by that target date.

The financial and economic crisis had tremendous negative effects on African economies, increasing the level of poverty and unemployment on the continent as well as reversing the progress African countries have made in recent years. The global financial and economic crises had a profound adverse impact on African development. The poor African countries, with their high dependence on agricultural commodity exports, are among the most adversely impacted by the failure of the global trade negotiations and the continued application of massive subsidies by developed countries.

This situation obviously entails further strengthening and enhancement of the global partnership for development, and vigorous implementation of all development commitments without any further delay, in particular implementation of the promises that have been made in support of Africa. Today, inadequacy of resources is widely seen as the main constraint on African development. Despite serious, sincere and consistent efforts by the African countries to implement NEPAD, Africa is still far from realizing the levels of support required under the Partnership. If we are to succeed in eradicating poverty and hunger in Africa, urgent and concerted action by developed countries and the international community is needed.

African countries have taken concrete steps to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development, through the development of sectoral policy frameworks, the design of specific projects and the establishment of expenditure targets in NEPAD priority areas. Through NEPAD, African countries have fundamentally changed the development paradigm. The narrow approach of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers has been expanded to include a comprehensive and holistic approach to development through African ownership. In fact, most African countries now have their own national development strategies. These efforts require an enabling national and international environment conducive to growth and development with the participation of the multi-stakeholders.

In the 2010 world summit outcome document the heads of State and Government said:

> "more attention should be given to Africa, especially those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Progress has been made in some African countries, but the situation in others remains a grave concern, not least because the continent is among the hardest hit by the financial and economic crisis. ... However, [aid] still lags behind the commitments that have been made. We therefore strongly call for the delivery of those commitments." (*resolution 65/1, para. 33*)

Those commitments include doubling aid to Africa.

The Group of 77 and China are of the view that resources must be mobilized for African States, the regional economic communities and the African Union in order to support efforts to achieve the MDGs within

the framework of national development programmes and to implement NEPAD. We have taken note of the outcome document of the MDGs summit, and look forward to the urgent implementation of the commitments that were stated.

In this regard, the Group of 77 and China once again reiterate the urgent need to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa, as contained in the review process of the political declaration on Africa's development needs (resolution 63/1) and as recommended in the Secretary-General's report. In our view, the process will be under the auspices of the General Assembly. The implementation of the commitments of African Governments and their development partners will be reviewed, beginning at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Progress towards sustaining development in Africa requires, among other things, writing off the insupportable debt of African countries by both bilateral and multilateral donors. Reaching the target of reducing poverty in half by 2015 would require a growth rate, on average, of 7 per cent to 8 per cent per annum. To achieve that rather high rate of growth, we call for a number of measures towards mobilizing external resources. We emphasize the imperative need for increased official development assistance, which, of course, needs to be combined with a set of other policy measures to advance developing countries in Africa.

As far as the environment is concerned, we recognize the importance of addressing in an interrelated and mutually supportive manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. In this regard, the G-77 and China strongly call for strengthened measures to enhance assistance to the African countries in their fight against land degradation, drought and desertification by multilateral and bilateral donors and through public and private partnership.

Finally, the Group is pleased that United Nations agencies have organized themselves into various clusters in line with NEPAD priority areas as a way to increase coordination and cooperation in their work related to NEPAD. Additionally, a number of these agencies play a critical role in supporting the work of NEPAD, especially in areas such as agriculture, trade and market access, infrastructure development, science and technology, among others. We welcome the United Nations present support for Africa, but we call on the United Nations to mainstream NEPAD into its normative and operational activities.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in this debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

CARICOM welcomes this opportunity to renew solidarity with the cause of peace and development for the people of Africa. The people of the Caribbean are linked to our brothers and sisters in Africa by age-old bonds of history and culture, by common struggles and shared aspirations. Our Community maintains an abiding interest in the quest of the African people for socio-economic transformation and the consolidation of durable peace.

Africa, the ancient home of man, is now emerging as a new frontier of development and human progress. Its nearly 1 billion people deserve the opportunity to fully realize the aspirations they share with all humanity to fulfil the promise of their potential in conditions of peace and stability, free from fear and from want. Many of these aspirations find expression in the New Partnership, which represents a collective vision and a strategic framework for socio-economic development in Africa.

The support of CARICOM for NEPAD is guided by a fundamental respect for Africa's ownership and leadership of its own development process. This we view as a key principle for development effectiveness and cooperation.

The Caribbean Community is pleased to note that the story of Africa is increasingly one of promise. Nevertheless, the continent faces the greatest risk in all the developing world of falling short in achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Based on current data, despite increased economic growth since 2000, there has not been commensurate progress by Africa towards attainment of the MDGs, and the region is acknowledged as being the most off-track in this regard. Africa will therefore necessarily remain a key focus for development efforts over the next five years.

Africa is also the locus of the major part of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Indeed, the quest for durable peace continues to require the most patient and active engagement so that the spectre of conflict and division will yield to a new

paradigm where the vast resources of this great people are used to serve their welfare, and to lay the foundations for enduring progress.

The prospects for such an outcome have improved in recent times. CARICOM is heartened by the successes recorded in recent years in United Nations peacekeeping on African soil. We are encouraged that more African countries have emerged, or are emerging, from conflict, though recovery in some instances is fragile and the risk of relapse is still very present. This brings into obvious relief the importance of United Nations peacebuilding efforts and renders imperative the creation of the necessary conditions both within and outside the continent for those efforts to have the best chance of success.

In many ways, therefore, Africa represents a beacon of opportunity for cooperation and partnership. The Caribbean Community stands ready to play its part as a partner with Africa in the advancement of our mutual objectives. Even as we speak, CARICOM collaboration with Africa finds expression in the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural domains, and in forums such as the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Alliance of Small Island States, the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth, and indeed in the United Nations.

CARICOM shares with Africa a commitment to deepening regional integration in the context of a challenging global environment. Our two regions have been responding to several of the challenges that have emerged in the process of strengthening integration. This endeavour has made it necessary that more appropriate structures for regional governance be put in place.

Africa and the Caribbean face a number of other challenges in common, not least in the area of health.

The scourge of HIV/AIDS has had a major impact on our respective populations. Africa and the Caribbean respectively have the first and second highest incidences of HIV infections globally. This unwelcome reality nevertheless provides an opportunity for collaboration and the exchange of experience and best practice. CARICOM stands ready to learn from our African counterparts and to share our own experience in this vital area. For its part, the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS has been identified by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS as best practice in regard to a regional response to the pandemic.

Africa continues to grapple with other challenges in the area of health, notably relating to malaria and maternal and child health. Overcoming those challenges will be an important catalyst for Africa's future progress.

Our region is grateful for the support extended by African countries to the CARICOM initiative on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Available data establish this as an area of present and growing concern, not only in Africa and the Caribbean, but also in other regions of the world. Indeed, it is a situation that warrants the immediate and concerted attention of the international community.

CARICOM also welcomes the Declaration of the Assembly of the African Union on the situation in the Republic of Haiti, adopted during the Assembly's fourteenth ordinary session, following the devastating earthquake that struck our sister CARICOM country in January this year. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the active solidarity and financial and material support extended by African countries to Haiti.

CARICOM takes note of the agreement of African leaders to focus policy interventions on the priority areas of agriculture and food security, transport and energy development, and climate change.

The development of agriculture is critical to Africa's development prospects. CARICOM strongly supports and encourages the work currently under way to promote an African green revolution. We welcome the commitment of African leaders to institute new measures to ensure that within five years Africa can produce enough food to feed its people. We urge the international community to continue and strengthen its support for Africa's efforts to realize those objectives.

CARICOM and Africa share a vital interest in addressing the challenge posed by climate change. The need for an ambitious and comprehensive global response is especially urgent for the many countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and elsewhere that are on the front lines of this looming catastrophe. We call for an urgent scaling up of international action to ensure a credible response to this threat and for speedy delivery on fast-start financing.

CARICOM is ever mindful of the complex interrelationships between governance, peace and development. We support ongoing efforts by African countries to improve economic and political governance, and to strengthen mechanisms for participation, inclusion and empowerment of all segments of African society in the political and development processes on the continent. We acknowledge the role of the African Peer Review Mechanism as an instrument for advancing good governance in Africa, and note that an increasing number of African countries now subscribe to the Mechanism.

CARICOM also believes that focused efforts must continue to be made to eliminate the combination of internal and external factors that engender conflict and stymie development.

The continued support of the international community remains vital as Africa charts its way forward. In this regard, CARICOM encourages intensified international efforts to support the development of Africa. We take note of the Secretary-General's report on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs. We anticipate early agreement on such a mechanism, in keeping with resolution 64/258, in order to encourage the implementation of the commitments, promotion of partnership and mutual accountability, the fulfilment of pledges of development assistance, and the enhancement of aid effectiveness.

In closing, I note that in 2011 the international community will mark the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent. We believe that this observance can make an important contribution to a paradigm shift that engenders greater Afro-optimism and help to realize what Mr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the African Union, has described as the "Africa of the new beginning".

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I have the honour and privilege to address the General Assembly on behalf of the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his insight and his comprehensive reports under agenda item 62, "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

ASEAN attaches great importance to friendship and cooperation with Africa. Through the decades, the relationships between ASEAN and African countries have been consolidated and enhanced in a spirit of solidarity, close cooperation, and mutual respect. Through cooperation, both regions have experienced significant changes and development for the benefit of their peoples.

ASEAN strongly supports the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and considers it an important tool to address poverty and underdevelopment throughout the African continent. NEPAD has provided a collective vision and a strategic socio-economic development framework for Africa. It is a home-grown effort of the African continent to implement a comprehensive and holistic approach to development.

ASEAN welcomes the significant progress made through the efforts of African peoples and leaders towards some sectoral priorities of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as education, health, infrastructure, and agriculture. Such progress shows the determination of Africa to promote sustainable growth and achieve the MDGs, even in the face of tremendous challenges. It has certainly helped to change the image of Africa. Despite the valiant efforts, however, the hard-won progress has still not reached expected levels. Africa's efforts should be continuously encouraged and supported.

As emphasized in the Secretary-General's reports, most African countries face serious challenges in reaching the MDGs, particularly in the current fragile and uncertain global economic recovery. ASEAN acknowledges that much needs to be done in support of Africa's implementation with regard to NEPAD and the MDGs. Continued attention to, and assistance for, Africa should remain a focus of international development action plans and programmes.

In that regard, ASEAN reaffirms its commitment to strengthen its cooperation and collaboration with Africa. We are ready to enhance the relationship and partnership with Africa for the achievement of the MDGs and sustainable development. We believe that, through mutual support, sharing of experiences and best practices in socio economic development, both ASEAN and Africa can achieve those objectives.

ASEAN has been doing its utmost to promote South-South cooperation with African partners as a complement to North-South cooperation in promoting trade, infrastructure, agriculture, food security, communication and health care in Africa. ASEAN has also been working hard to explore and implement concrete steps to ensure successes for both ASEAN and Africa.

We believe that South-South cooperation is the best strategy to promote an ASEAN and African partnership. South-South cooperation in key strategic areas such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme would significantly contribute to Africa's development and integration, in terms of the eradication of poverty and hunger, agriculture and rural development, as well as mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Within the context of scaling up efforts in implementing NEPAD and achieving the MDGs, Africa has a daunting task. It has to maintain peace, security and a politically stable environment. Meanwhile, there are also the important tasks of consolidating development strategies; strengthening leadership and ownership; enhancing capacity-development; mobilizing more resources at national and international levels; and developing strategic partnerships.

In that connection, the recent integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, and the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), mark a significant stage in NEPAD's implementation. It is a good way to facilitate and improve the management and coordination of the implementation of Africa's regional and continental priority programmes and projects, promising better outcomes of Africa's development process.

However, NEPAD and NPCA need adequate human and financial resources to meet their objectives. Developed partners need to do more in response to their needs.

Meeting international commitments, particularly on the essential issues, includes increasing official development assistance flows to Africa, especially implementing the promises by the Group of Eight at Gleneagles and Canada to double aid to Africa by 2010, and mobilizing an additional fund of $5 billion over the next five years to achieve the MDGs; facilitating foreign direct investment flow to Africa and improving investment climates, particularly for investments in infrastructure, agriculture, rural development and food security; and promoting trade with Africa by implementing Aid for Trade programmes and commitments.

More efforts need to be made to reach agreement in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization trade negotiations, especially on agricultural market access and reduction of agricultural subsidies, which have profound implications for Africa.

That having been said, ASEAN fully supports the conclusion and recommendations of the Secretary-General in his reports regarding proper ways and means to scale up the implementation of NEPAD and build on the momentum of international support for Africa's development. In addition, we also support the recommended establishment of a review process as a mechanism to monitor commitments to Africa's development.

ASEAN welcomes every positive initiative to advance the common development agenda between ASEAN and Africa for the benefit of our peoples. We stand ready to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and solidarity with the international community, particularly with Africa, to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. We are confident that Africa can carry out NEPAD for the peace, security, prosperity and sustainable development of Africa and the world.

Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I have the pleasure of aligning myself with the statement made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and with that to be made by Malawi on behalf of the African Group.

Our meeting today comes less than a month after the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose outcome document (resolution 65/1) emphasized the urgent need to address the special development needs of Africa, the continent lagging behind the most in reaching the

internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs. The meeting also underlined the unfulfilled commitments and the urgent need to bridge the delivery gap that is shadowing their fulfilment.

The adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis on the developing countries, particularly in Africa, has affected the efforts of African countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. That is due to the negative consequences of the crisis for export earnings, remittances and foreign direct investment, as well as for the ability of the African countries to pay their debts.

In the meantime, the crisis has revealed the resolve of African countries to address the repercussions of the crisis through adjusting their economic and management structures and restoring an average growth rate that was estimated to be more than 4 per cent in 2010, after being around 2 per cent in 2009 due to the crisis. Although growth rates remain below pre crisis levels — as well as below the level required to make significant improvements in social conditions and to achieve the MDGs — Africa can take vigorous steps along the road to economic recovery that exceed all expectations, particularly if international support is extended and commitments are fulfilled.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has been among the main vehicles for enhancing such structures. Through NEPAD the African countries have taken big strides in various aspects of development, such as infrastructure, agriculture, food security, health, education, and information and communications technology. There has also been significant progress in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through the activities of the African Peer Review Mechanism. That Mechanism now comprises 30 countries, including Egypt, reflecting Africa's progress in good governance, improving the human rights situation and strengthening democracy.

In that context, there is an urgent need for our development partners to fulfil all official development assistance (ODA) and other commitments made in different forums to support development in Africa. They must lift all barriers, whether related to subsidies or other technical barriers, that cause African exports to be at a disadvantage and increase Africa's share of trade-related aid. Our partners should facilitate access to world markets and make additional efforts to bring the Doha Round of global trade negotiations to a comprehensive and development-oriented conclusion.

Furthermore, Egypt stresses that the improvement of the continent's development situation remains incomplete without affirming the necessity of seriously moving forward on a reform of the existing deficiencies and shortcomings in the international economic and financial system. Such a reform must end the marginalization of the African continent in international economic decision-making and enhance the continent's voice and participation. The status quo, which deprives the countries of the continent of their right to effectively participate in managing the global economic system, cannot continue at a time when that system gravely affects their economic situation. We cannot accept a new system that consecrates such marginalization instead of addressing it.

In that context, Egypt welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendations on a monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of commitments to Africa's development needs. Egypt believes that the General Assembly provides a suitable framework for that mechanism, which would also reflect the great importance that the United Nations membership attaches to the cause of enhancing development in Africa. In the meantime, any future agreed mechanism must put more emphasis on following up and monitoring the implementation of ODA and other aid-related commitments to Africa.

Despite the significant improvement that Africa has achieved in the areas of peace and security, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, it still faces many complex challenges. They include intra State conflicts, unconstitutional changes of Government, election-related violence and illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and drugs. In addition, there is the mounting negative influence of other emerging challenges, such as terrorism, threats to maritime security, climate change and food security. Those threats and challenges could undermine African endeavours to achieve stability and development.

To address those challenges, Egypt believes that the United Nations, the African Union and African subregional organizations should combine all their preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding

tools and should emphasize the linkage among the political, economic and social development aspects, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report. It is therefore of paramount importance that all pledges to support development in Africa be fully implemented.

The growing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations has been crucial in addressing many of the challenges to peace and security in Africa. The joint efforts of the two bodies to deal with the situations in Kenya and Zimbabwe in the past and with the current situations in Guinea and the Niger, as well as other forms of cooperation such as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, exemplify the fruits of that partnership. Furthermore, the work of the Peacebuilding Commission to support four African countries that have emerged from conflict underlines the importance of joint work towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations.

In that regard, Egypt attaches great importance to enhancing the annual consultative mechanism between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

In addition, we believe that the review process under way regarding the implementation of the 10 year capacity-building programme for the African Union will further enhance United Nations support to build the capacities of the African institutions in the areas of peace and security, socio-economic development and peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

Enhancing peace, security and development in Africa has always been among the top priorities of Egyptian foreign policy. One manifestation of that commitment to the causes of our continent has been Egypt's significant contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, which has made Egypt among the top five troop-contributing countries.

In the same vein, in August Egypt hosted the 2010 High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, which brought together United Nations and African Union envoys under the theme "Making peace happen in Africa in 2010 and beyond: developing common strategies and enhancing coordination". The forum, which adopted the "Cairo Call for Peace", provided an excellent opportunity for deliberations and interaction among the officials and high-level envoys of the two organizations on how to maximize the synergies of their work to address challenges to peace and security in various parts of the African continent.

Since the Millennium Summit launched the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, particularly in Africa, international efforts have succeeded in eliminating the disease in nearly half of the malaria-infected countries. In addition, a marked reduction in infection rates has been achieved in a number of other countries as a result of programmes being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant bodies, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, and as a result of the increase in available funding for such programmes.

However, the continuing proliferation of the disease in 109 countries reaffirms the need for continued support. It also reaffirms the need to ensure the sustainability of funding in order to reduce mortality rates by half in 2010, with a view to reaching a 75 per cent reduction in mortality rates by 2015. There is also a need to address the spread of the disease in Africa, where infection rates have reached alarming levels of 91 per cent, the highest in the world.

Those facts underline the dire need to support efforts to revamp the infrastructure of the economic, educational and health systems in African countries. There is also a serious need to transfer the necessary technical knowledge to support those efforts and ensure the early diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the disease through the participation of all forces of society. That entails intensifying awareness campaigns at national levels, alongside implementation of prevention and treatment programmes. It also entails working to improve health-care systems and to provide medicines and vaccinations and to train qualified cadres.

Such undertakings are beyond the capacity of many Governments unless they receive foreign assistance, particularly in Africa, where many countries are overburdened by malaria. Egypt calls on the international community to deliver on commitments made at different international forums to support efforts to combat the spread of malaria.

Egypt commends the initiative of Tanzania to establish the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, thus reaffirming the commitments of African leaders to combat the spread of malaria. The Alliance's recent successful efforts to promote preventive measures to

combat the spread of malaria and increase accessibility to diagnostic and treatment measures require parallel commitments by the international community to provide support at all levels.

Furthermore, building national capacities must take place in tandem with building regional capacity, in order to address the transboundary dimensions of the disease. It was in that context that Egypt launched its initiative to establish an African centre to promote cooperation and to exchange knowledge in the field of disease control and to serve as a liaison between specialized African centres. That initiative has been fully endorsed by African summits since 2005.

It is also imperative to resolve the trade-related aspects of the intellectual property rights with regard to malaria medications and vaccines currently in circulation or being developed. Indeed, the international community has to shoulder that responsibility so as to ensure effectiveness of the efforts to eliminate malaria and to thwart the risk of its reintroduction so that we may realize our common goals, especially MDG 6, by the targeted date, and in all States, with no exceptions.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I welcome the Secretary-General's reports under these agenda items.

The Chinese delegation endorses the statement made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Today Africa faces both important opportunities and grave challenges in peace and development. Since the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) nine years ago, with the vigorous support of the international community, the African countries have made great progress in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, the environment and information and communications technology. Nevertheless, under the impact of the financial, food and energy crises, and of climate change, Africa still faces an uphill task in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Today most of the original hot spot issues affecting Africa's peace and stability are, in the final analysis, attributable to poverty and underdevelopment. China believes that development is the basis for the attainment of peace in Africa.

The international community should increase its support for Africa, and help it attain greater progress in the implementation of NEPAD, and thus promote stability and prosperity in Africa.

First, commitment to assistance should be delivered promptly. Despite the slight increase in its volume, the total official development assistance (ODA) for Africa in recent years still falls far short of that pledged by the international community and Africa's actual needs. The developed countries should expeditiously raise their ODA level to 0.7 per cent of their gross national income, further open their markets to African products, reduce or cancel debt, and increase technology transfer and investment so as to improve Africa's capacity for independent development.

Secondly, African countries' right to self-determination should be respected. The African countries have made major headway through vigorous efforts to increase unity for greater strength, seek regional peace and stability and bring about economic reinvigoration. In providing assistance to Africa, the international community should show greater respect for the real situation on the ground and the aspirations of the African countries, further remove conditionalities attached to aid, increase the predictability and transparency of such assistance and redress the power imbalance between donors and recipients.

Thirdly, South-South cooperation should be expanded. As a useful complement to North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation has become an effective engine for Africa's economic development. Recent years have seen brisk financial and commercial exchanges between countries in the South; the creation of various models of cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit in areas such as sharing knowledge, exchange of experience, training and technology transfer; and contributions in kind and soft loans, which have further enhanced and revitalized South-South cooperation for Africa's development.

Fourthly, the role of international institutions must be strengthened. The United Nations system is playing an irreplaceable role in supporting NEPAD. It is imperative to further deepen the system's partnership with the African Union, the African Development Bank and regional economic communities, and to ensure that the focus of various bodies of the United Nations system is aligned with the priorities of NEPAD. The

international financial institutions and international development agencies should also step up their support for Africa.

Fifthly, the realization of lasting peace in Africa should be promoted. At present over 60 per cent of the items on the Security Council's agenda are related to Africa, and 75 per cent of the Organization's international peacekeepers are deployed in Africa. China believes that the international community should vigorously support the African countries in their efforts to solve their disputes through peaceful consultations and support the efforts of the regional organizations, such as the African Union, in strengthening their capacity-building in peacekeeping. The peaceful resolution of the hot spot issues in Africa should not be interrupted or hindered by any means. The United Nations should play a more proactive role in the field of peace and development in Africa, and the Security Council should play a more important role in maintaining peace, security and stability there.

China and Africa enjoy a profound tradition of friendship. China has always been committed to the cause of peace and development on the African continent. Since the establishment of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2000, China's strategic partnership with Africa has developed in depth; after a decade's efforts, fruitful results have been achieved in many areas.

In recent years the Chinese Government has implemented various measures in its Africa-related assistance and cooperation.

Last November the Chinese Government announced, at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, a series of policy measures in support of Africa's development. They include $10 billion of preferential loans to African countries; cancellation of the unpaid interest-free loans — expired at the end of 2009 — owed by heavily indebted poor countries and least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa with diplomatic ties with China; and progressive granting of duty-free treatment for 95 per cent of the products of African LDCs that have diplomatic ties with China, with the treatment applied to 60 per cent of such products as the first step in 2010.

China fully supports the call to increase global control of malaria. Between 2006 and 2009, China provided RMB 300 million in grants to help Africa in the fight against malaria. From now until 2012, China will continue to provide its 30 malaria prevention and control centres in Africa with anti-malaria supplies and invite experts and technicians of the recipient countries working in those centres to train in China so that these development projects become sustainable.

In September, the second round of Ministerial Political Consultations between China and Africa took place at United Nations Headquarters. China has always engaged, and will continue to engage, in constructive good offices and make efforts to address the hot spot issues facing Africa. It will support the Security Council in playing an important role in helping resolve conflicts in the African region and support and participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. It calls upon the international community and United Nations entities, including the Security Council, to make more proactive and constructive contributions for the maintenance of peace and security in Africa.

We are convinced that the people of Africa have the wisdom and ability to achieve economic revitalization and social progress through their own unflagging efforts. China is ready to join the African countries and the international community in continuing to contribute to the cause of peace and development in Africa.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): I thank the Secretary-General for the reports presented under the agenda items that we are debating. I also take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for their work in mobilizing global support for action on malaria, particularly as we seek to fulfil the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We meet today to discuss the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), progress in implementation and international support, as well as causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing countries, Particularly in Africa.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

NEPAD was conceived as a blueprint for establishing a socio-economic development framework

for Africa. It has been able to identify priority areas of action in line with the NEPAD objectives.

South Africa is thus encouraged by the progress made through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which provides a framework for regional and continental transport networks, energy, water and information and communications technology. In this regard, we commend the international financial institutions and development banks that have pledged to increase their financial commitments to Africa by at least $15 billion in the next two to three years.

However, we are concerned that, although Africa will need infrastructure investment totalling $93 billion a year, it currently spends $45 billion annually. It is therefore critical that we secure support for the remaining financing gap of $48 billion.

In the context of NEPAD, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was developed, and several African countries are benefiting from Group of Eight funding pledged at the L'Aquila 2009 Summit through ensuring that CAADP national investment plans are in place.

In addition to other endeavours to facilitate development, we have seen the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process go from strength to strength. That is manifested by the increase in APRM membership, which now stands at 29. This uniquely designed peer review mechanism has proved to be an effective tool for the advancement of good governance on the continent.

South Africa further commends the progress made thus far towards the full integration of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency into the African Union Commission structures and processes.

The Secretary-General has called on the international community to provide adequate support for African-led conflict-resolution strategies in line with the priorities of the African Union (AU).

Despite the numerous challenges that Africa still confronts, the continent has over the past decade made outstanding improvements in many areas, including the building of sustainable institutions.

The creation of the African Union and its subsidiary organs, which include the African Peace and Security Architecture, signal the strong commitment and political will of African leaders to advance peace and security throughout the continent.

The African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) programme has proved to be a progressive peacebuilding and development mechanism that should be meaningfully supported and sustained. South Africa is privileged to lead the pioneering work of this AU programme in the Sudan. What is urgently required now is for the United Nations to continue its support and assistance to the AU in line with the recommendations of the Prodi Report.

Since 1994, South Africa has made its humble contribution towards conflict resolution on the African continent. To this end, in line with the objectives of the PCRD, South Africa has played a significant role in post-conflict reconstruction and capacity-building in countries such as Burundi, the Sudan, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Among other things, the inequitable distribution of income and resources within countries, the politicization of ethnicity, asymmetric distribution of political power, and absence of the voice of the majority in decision-making are systemic causes of many conflicts that threaten the hard-won peace and stability of African States. In this context, we appeal to the international community to focus its conflict-resolution initiatives on addressing the structural issues, instead of choosing the easy way of addressing proximate causes that usually last for a short time. For a durable solution there is a need to recognize the importance of development as a catalyst for peace and security.

We therefore call on the United Nations and the wider international community to work in partnership with African States in actualizing their political, social and economic development potential.

In 2009 the African leaders launched the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, and they continued to put malaria control high on their agenda for 2010.

The establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and commitments by members of the international community, including the World Bank and other agencies, have contributed immensely to the scaling up of malaria control

interventions and have led to noticeable reductions in the burden of malaria.

South Africa calls upon the international community to support national efforts by providing technical assistance to improve monitoring and evaluation systems in order to track and report on changes in coverage and subsequent reductions in the burden of malaria.

We encourage producers of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to provide technology transfer to developing countries. We also invite the World Bank and private-sector partners to assist malaria-endemic countries in establishing factories to scale up production of the nets.

South Africa welcomes the recognition that the use of DDT for indoor residual spraying has been found to be successful. Countries should be allowed to continue to use DDT, as long as it is used in accordance with international rules, guidelines and standards.

In conclusion, my delegation recognizes that the support of the international community is critical for the success of Africa's development. We will continue to work together with the international community in fulfilling the vision of a prosperous Africa free from the burden of conflict, poverty and disease.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): I commend the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on the important issues before us today.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Africa has made remarkable achievements in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which represents the collective vision for Africa's strategic development. The recent integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures has generated a new momentum towards the implementation of its priority areas.

Steady progress has been made in the political, economic and social sectors on the African continent. The elements of good governance have been well embraced. The adoption of political pluralism, the holding of regular, free and fair elections, respect for the rule of law and human rights, and the adoption of the African Peer Review Mechanism by many African countries in the past decade testify to the accountable political leadership and deepened democratic ethos that prevail on the continent.

Between 2002 and 2007 gross domestic product grew annually by some 6.5 per cent, the highest rate in more than 30 years. Moderate or low levels of inflation and macroeconomic stability accompanied the growth take-off in most countries. What was striking about this upswing was that it was broad-based and not concentrated in just a few countries.

Commendable achievements have been made in the health and education sectors. Public health successes include the elimination of river blindness and leprosy, and substantive control of the transmission of polio, Guinea worm and measles. Many African countries have significantly reduced their AIDS prevalence rate, and a growing number of Africans living with the virus are undergoing antiretroviral treatment.

In spite of the progress, health systems in Africa remain underfunded, understaffed and ill-equipped, and vaccination coverage is weak. Armed conflicts and drug trafficking are still affecting our society. The world's economic and financial crisis has caused a reduction in export prices, remittances and foreign investments, and a depreciation of local currencies, as well as an increase in Africa's debt. Official development assistance (ODA) is about $14 billion short of the original Gleneagles commitment. Africa's ability to raise resources for development has therefore been negatively affected.

ODA is very important to Africa, now more than ever before. Total resource flows to Africa remained less diversified than in other developing areas, and it also has a relatively smaller share of other resource flows, such as foreign direct investment, bonds and portfolio equity, as compared to ODA. The sharp slowdown in domestic revenue combined with declining export revenue and remittances, as well as a loss of access to international capital markets, underlines the critical need for more resources from the international community, particularly ODA. What is needed currently in Africa is not a renewal of pledges but the delivery of commitments made by our development partners.

Africa can be resourced through the implementation of measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and

promoting transparency in financial information. Strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue, including support and technical assistance to African countries to enhance their capacities, is crucial. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets to Africa, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Africa desires to move away from aid dependency in future. This can be achieved if we can trade our way out of poverty. Fully supporting and further developing a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, by working expeditiously towards a balanced and ambitious, comprehensive Doha outcome document, will bring benefits to Africa and contribute to enhancing its integration into the world economic system.

We call on the international community to emphasize aid for trade in order to strengthen and enhance the trade capacity and competitiveness of African countries so as to ensure equitable benefits from increased trading opportunities and to foster economic growth.

Malaria continues to take its deadly toll on Africans, in particular vulnerable children and pregnant women. It also deprives us of significant resources meant for accelerated economic development. We believe that together with our partners we can win the fight against malaria. We must therefore keep up that fight.

Development of the continent requires shared responsibilities. African Governments need to enhance domestic resource mobilization as well as to pursue deep reforms that contribute to development.

In conclusion, Ghana is of the view that the way forward to meet Africa's development needs is to take coordinated, balanced and integrated action at all levels to attain the Millennium Development Goals in full and in a timely manner and to comprehensively address all challenges to Africa's development.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): On 10 October our country commemorated the beginning of the first war of independence, in 1868. This historic event, which marked forever the course of our national history, was accompanied by one of the most momentous acts of justice in our history: Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, the father of the Cuban homeland, set his slaves free. Independence and our African heritage are therefore inextricably linked to the Cuban national identity.

As President Raúl Castro has stated, Africa is not a legend distant in space and time — it is dignity, sacrifice, courage and endurance.

Over one and a half million enslaved Africans arrived in our island, coming from territories occupied today by many African countries, including Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania. We are therefore proud to declare that the Cuban people have directly and naturally inherited the gallantry, bravery and culture of resistance of Africa, which has been heroically fighting for centuries to overcome challenges that still persist.

The deepest internationalist convictions of the Cuban Revolution have made it possible for our country to be always at the side of Africa, from unconditional support for the anti-colonial struggles to cooperative projects in many aspects of the continent's socio-economic development. Over 381,000 Cuban combatants fought selflessly to defend the integrity and sovereignty of sister African nations for almost three decades. We returned from Africa with only the remains of our fallen comrades and the honour of having fulfilled our duty.

Today, more than 2,400 Cubans are helping in 35 African nations with the promotion of development in diverse areas including public health, education, agriculture, sports and construction.

Our country will continue to contribute human capital and experience in its cooperation with numerous countries of the continent. In the Comprehensive Health Programme alone, around 1,120 Cuban doctors and health-care technicians are working in 23 African countries, offering their services to more than 48 million people.

Today more than 2,200 young people from 45 African countries are studying in our universities and polytechnic institutes; over 32,000 young people from the continent have graduated in various specialities.

Cuba has always stood with Africa, and Africa with Cuba. In the more than 50 years of the unjust and cruel blockade of Cuba, the African Governments and peoples have closed ranks 18 times in the General Assembly to stand up for the right of the Cuban people to determine their own destiny.

The statements we make here are to no avail if the African countries are then forced to spend five times more on shameful foreign debts than on health and education programmes.

It is imperative to change the current international order, in which powerful multinationals strive to control the mineral resources of the African continent, and in which the rich countries, with a few exceptions, fail to meet their modest official development assistance commitments and cling to an unjust patent and trade regime that hinders the development of African nations.

To address Africa's problems, it is necessary to eliminate the profit-at-any-cost philosophy supporting the current international system.

Our country will continue to support the African Union and all the regional coordination mechanisms in their endeavour to find their own solutions to Africa's problems. However, Africa also needs the firm support of the international community. And from the United Nations it needs an integrated approach to solving the continent's problems related to its peace, security and development.

We demand for Africa not paternalism, but equality of opportunities, as part of a more just and equitable international order. That is what is needed for the countries of Africa and the other developing nations to be able to face the challenge of working for the well-being of our peoples.

Above all, Africa needs and deserves solidarity and respect.

Mr. Mwanyula (Malawi): Speaking on behalf of the African Group, I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support; on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa; and on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The year 2010 has been a remarkable one for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme. It will be recalled that extensive efforts to integrate NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union finally culminated in the decision of the fourteenth African Union summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to formally establish the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as a technical body of the African Union.

As mandated by the African Union Assembly decision, the Agency's role as a planning unit aims at facilitating and coordinating implementation of regional and continental programmes and mobilizing resources for the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects. The Agency's role in conducting and coordinating research and knowledge management will create an enabling environment to achieve food security and agricultural development in the next five years.

African countries have taken huge steps to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The past year has witnessed progress in the implementation of NEPAD projects in key sectors such as infrastructure, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, education and training, the environment, information and communications technologies and science and technology. Equally, there has been progress in moving forward the African Peer Review Mechanism, with 30 countries acceding and 12 countries reviewed.

The just concluded High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) highlighted the reality that no country in Africa is on track to meet all the MDG targets by 2015. In this regard, the summit called for more attention to Africa, as the continent is the only region where poverty is increasing.

This scenario is worsened by multiple crises, including the global financial and economic crisis, increasing food and energy prices and the impact of climate change. In order to mitigate and forestall the impacts of the multiple crises, most African Governments have been forced to divert their limited

resources to short-term solutions. This has led to a reversal of the development gains.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for renewed commitments to support Africa in meeting its special needs, in order to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crises and help African countries recover ground in their progress towards the implementation of NEPAD and the achievement of the MDGs. In particular, development partners should deliver on their aid commitments. According to the Secretary-General's report on NEPAD, since 2004 Africa has received between 32 per cent and 35 per cent of the total increase in official development assistance, well below the 50 per cent increase committed to in Gleneagles. Africa is likely to receive only about $12 billion of the $25 billion increase envisaged at Gleneagles.

Although Africa produces only 4 per cent of total global carbon dioxide emissions, it is the region most vulnerable to global climate change and least equipped to deal with its consequences. Changes in weather patterns have a direct bearing on water availability, agricultural output and food security. As climate change intensifies and its impacts deepen, adaptation among the communities in Africa is becoming increasingly challenging.

Due to lack of adequate financial resources, of capacity-building and of appropriate technology, environmental management is a serious challenge. As a result, the continent continues to witness desertification, deforestation, dust storms, pollution and the loss of ecosystems caused by rapid urbanization. Africa is currently losing large swathes of forest every year.

Africa suffers from a severe lack of infrastructure. That deficit is preventing the continent from realizing its full potential for economic growth, global competitiveness and achievement of the MDGs, including poverty reduction. Modern infrastructure services are largely inaccessible to the poorest. About 60 per cent of the rural population in African countries is poor and unable to access health care, education and gainful employment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to scale up investments in the infrastructure, as it is critical to economic growth and development.

Improved agricultural productivity and profitability has great potential for economic development in a rural continent. More than 90 per cent of the continent's food supply is produced by smallholder farmers in rural areas. Yet more than 50 per cent of the food-insecure population are smallholder farmers, in addition to the landless poor and the urban poor.

To address poverty and reduce hunger across the continent, sustained agricultural growth is a high priority, as envisaged by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Hunger and health are inextricably linked to the realization of the MDGs. Malnourishment devastates children and stunts their potential, leading to cyclical deprivation and hunger.

Africa faces challenges in meeting the health-related MDGs by 2015. Access to essential services, such as family planning, maternal health care, and malaria and HIV prevention and treatment, remain dire. As a result, death rates among African women from complications of pregnancy and childbirth are very high. However, the reality on the ground is a critical shortage of health workers in Africa, and weak health systems severely underfunded due to a lack of national and international budgetary commitments.

NEPAD recognizes the critical role of the private sector, both domestic and foreign-owned, as the continent's engine of economic growth.

Africa continues to be plagued by long-term, and in some cases interrelated, crises and violent conflicts which have caused immense human suffering. In light of the serious implications of conflict on several aspects of the development of Africa, initiatives such as peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development have been launched on a continent-wide and regional level to address conflict issues.

A central theme in the African Union/NEPAD agenda is the bringing together of the issues of peace and security, governance, constitutionalism, economic development and international partnerships. In this regard, the African Group once again reiterates the urgent need to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa, as contained in the political declaration on Africa's development needs review process and as recommended in the Secretary-General's report. In our view, the process should be under the aegis of the General Assembly. The implementation of the commitments of African Governments and their development partners would be reviewed, beginning at the Assembly's next session.

Mr. O'Brien (Australia): We thank the President for convening this joint debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. I will address each item in turn.

First, the New Partnership for Africa's Development continues to provide an important framework to address the critical challenges facing the African continent. We welcome the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union. This represents a new era for NEPAD in the implementation of its priorities for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Australian Government is pleased to be supporting Africa's own efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015. We have doubled our overseas development assistance to Africa over the last three years, and on current projections our development budget will double again by 2015. In this, we have aligned our efforts with those of African Governments, institutions, multilateral partners and other donors, in order to ensure the effectiveness of our increased cooperation with Africa.

Australia's four-year $100 million food security programme in Africa is being implemented in partnership with key regional organizations under NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Australia recognizes that CAADP represents a key mechanism for implementing the L'Aquila principles on global food security, and sees NEPAD as an important tool for moving it forward.

In dealing with water and sanitation — another key NEPAD priority area — Australia's efforts are aligned with African-owned and -driven priorities, especially achievement of the Africa Water Vision 2025.

Australia is also strengthening its partnership with the African Union more broadly. Last month, we were pleased to sign a memorandum of understanding with the African Union Commission which should serve to strengthen coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest in Africa. By way of illustration, Australia will work closely with the African Union Commission as part of our $140 million programme to support maternal and child health in Eastern Africa, in recognition of the Commission's unique role in continent-wide advocacy on those issues.

Australia shares the Secretary-General's frustration with the lack of progress being made in the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Australia is pursuing an outcome that is good for development, good for agricultural trade reform and good for the multilateral trading regime. Such an outcome in the Doha Round, together with effective aid-for-trade activities in the region, will help Africa to trade its way out of poverty.

As Foreign Minister Rudd said during the Millennium Development Goals summit last month, donor countries need to do what we say we will to honour our commitments. That is what Australia seeks to do. Thus we look forward to discussing with other Member States the Secretary-General's suggestion for an improved monitoring mechanism of the commitments to Africa's development, to strengthen the sense of partnership and mutual accountability that should exist between donor and recipient Member States.

I turn now to the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries. As we near the end of the Decade, the disease continues to have a serious economic and human impact across the globe. Malaria fuels the cycle of poverty, afflicting primarily the poor and most vulnerable. It is an unacceptable tragedy that malaria remains a major killer of African children.

We can draw some encouragement from the progress that has been made in combating the disease and by the results that we are beginning to see. The reduction in malaria cases and deaths in those high-burden African countries that have achieved high coverage of their populations with bednets and treatment programmes demonstrates that we know what is needed to combat this disease. Our efforts, however, must continue.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a critical player in combating malaria in developing countries. Last week, Australia announced its commitment of $210 million over three years to support the critical work of the Global Fund. That commitment represents a 55 per cent increase over Australia's last three-year pledge to the Global Fund and demonstrates our commitment to supporting global efforts to build on the successes of the past decade and to reverse the incidence of malaria worldwide.

Australia's bilateral programmes complement our support to the Global Fund. Australia is playing a

leading role in reducing the malaria burden in the Asia-Pacific region, where around 62 per cent of malaria cases outside of Africa occur.

Through the Pacific Malaria Initiative, Australia is providing targeted technical and management support to assist Governments to implement their national malaria action plans. This initiative is already making impressive progress. In Solomon Islands, the incidence of malaria has been reduced from 199 cases per 1,000 people in 2003 to 77 cases per 1,000 in 2009; while in Vanuatu the rate has fallen from 74 to 15 cases per 1,000. The initiative has highlighted the importance of working within partner Government systems, of strong political leadership and of providing appropriate technical expertise. Australia will continue to support malaria control in the Asia-Pacific region and globally. We aim to build on successes so far and to achieve the goals set for us in MDG 6 by 2015.

Mrs. Pessôa (Brazil): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this joint debate on the implementation of and international support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries. I take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation for the quality of all the reports and notes presented by the Secretary-General for both items under our consideration today (A/65/152, A/65/165, A/65/167, A/65/62, A/62/Add.1 and A/65/210).

Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Brazil has supported NEPAD as an example of an African-owned and -driven initiative. The high priority we attribute to NEPAD is reflected in a wide range of technical cooperation projects implemented in partnership with various African countries. Our cooperation projects are always aimed at transferring skills, building local capacity and empowering local workers, with the full engagement and ownership of African Governments.

In 2009, Brazilian cooperation projects in Africa represented 51 per cent of our overall investments in technical cooperation with other developing countries. Initiatives implemented in partnership with Portuguese-speaking countries alone represented 63 per cent of that total. The wide variety of areas of technical cooperation with Africa encompasses projects in areas such as education, agriculture and livestock husbandry, science, energy and health. Currently, Brazil partners with African countries on 117 projects.

Our cooperation with Africa is consistent with NEPAD's focus on agriculture as a means to generate wealth and eradicate poverty. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation — a State company — recently established an office in Accra, with a view to supporting the technological and productive improvement of the African savannah. It is the most comprehensive collection of data on tropical agriculture and has provided assistance to over 30 countries in the region.

Projects aimed at improving local capacity in livestock husbandry are being carried out together with Cape Verde, Senegal and Zambia. Initiatives to improve family farming and rural professional training are under way in Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mozambique and Nigeria. Also in the field of agriculture training, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency offers a programme, open to all African countries, that is structured around three major areas, namely, public agricultural policies, agricultural research and training of local producers.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Brazil has been a steadfast advocate for an early, development-geared conclusion of the Doha Round. No other economic sector is more central to sustainable development than agriculture. In the framework of the Round, Brazil has decided to unilaterally grant duty-free and quota-free access for exports from least developed countries, two thirds of which are in Africa. Furthermore, in order to increase the access of African producers to the cotton chain, raise the income of farmers and favour the expansion of job offers, Brazil has engaged in technology-transfer projects with the "cotton 4" countries — namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

We have also been working to strengthen regional political dialogue, with a view to broadening the scope and number of developing partners. In that sense, the Africa-South America Summit constitutes a good example of innovative platforms for increased dialogue and cooperation. In the past six years, trade across the two regions has increased from $6 to $36 billion, thus contributing to the development of both South America and Africa.

Interregional dialogue has also resulted in improved cooperation on infrastructure, one of the key areas of NEPAD. The Declaration of Nueva Esparta, signed in September 2009, encourages the exchange of experiences and initiatives in the area of infrastructure between South American agencies — such as the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America and the Board of Infrastructure and Planning of the Union of South American Nations and NEPAD.

The implications of health for the overall efforts to promote development are clear and have been reaffirmed in a number of internationally agreed documents, such as the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2). NEPAD rightly recognizes the close links among health, poverty, social exclusion, marginalization and environmental degradation in Africa. Brazil fully agrees with the basic principle of NEPAD's health strategy, namely, that preventable and treatable diseases not only cause unnecessary deaths and untold suffering, but also represent significant expenditures of national resources, which further hampers economic and social development.

Brazilian cooperation initiatives therefore attach great importance to creating and developing capacities in the area of health. We are currently partnering with Mozambique to develop a pharmaceutical facility to produce antiretroviral drugs to be used in various African countries. Other projects are being implemented in countries such as Liberia, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Ghana and Zambia in order to support the improvement of national health systems.

The Brazilian Government is deeply committed to the international fight against malaria. Our engagement is manifested through both bilateral cooperation and participation in multilateral efforts. Our active participation in the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, the international drug-purchasing facility UNITAID, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria reflects that commitment.

The international community has made remarkable progress in the past few years in the pursuit of the goals of achieving universal coverage for malaria prevention and treatment by 2010 and reducing global malaria deaths to near zero preventable deaths by 2015. In addition to expanding the use of insecticide-treated nets, it is imperative that national Governments and the international community put in place mechanisms to ensure universal access to free or affordable medicines for the treatment of malaria for those who are already affected.

As in many other regions of the world, cases of malaria infections in Brazil are associated with the process of colonization. Today, the largest numbers of new infections are found in cities. However, in our national experience, it is possible to reduce the number of cases by expanding health services and integrating control and care activities.

The Brazilian Government is committed to further strengthening the prevention and control of the infection in order to maintain a sustained reduction in cases of infection, especially in the most vulnerable cities. To that end, we have launched a national programme for malaria control. With resources granted by the Global Fund, the programme aims at reducing by 50 per cent the number of cases of malaria in the 47 municipalities that are responsible for 70 per cent of the infections recorded in Brazil.

As one of the countries afflicted by the disease, Brazil is determined to work with the international community and other developing countries, especially in Africa, in order to free the world of the scourge of malaria.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): This debate on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the international support it has received is taking place at a time marked by the ongoing economic and social crisis, whose effects continue to be most pronounced in the poorest countries, especially in Africa, despite the emergence of some encouraging signs of resumed economic growth. This meeting is also being held on the heels of the General Assembly's High-level Plenary Meeting on progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which provided an opportunity to highlight the problems and challenges facing African countries and the sorts of steps needed to integrate them into the world economy.

Algeria, one of the countries that contributed to promoting the New Partnership for Africa's Development, would like to emphasize the importance of this innovative mechanism, which provides an appropriate framework for developing partnerships based on a new approach to cooperation and development in Africa.

NEPAD is both an integrated strategy and a development framework that incorporates Africa's commitment to undertake effective leadership in taking control of its destiny and all aspects of its development process, with the ultimate goal of consolidating good governance, peace and security and regional and continent-wide integration. Policies in that framework are focused on priority issues like macroeconomic stability, the establishment of basic infrastructure, the promotion of human development and information and communications technologies, and combating pandemic diseases.

Africa is a major economic development hub that is increasingly considered as a new area for investment and global economic growth. That is due both to the continent's substantial natural resources and to the progress made in economic governance as a result of major efforts to reform monetary, budgetary and financial policies and of the macroeconomic stability enjoyed by many African countries. Consequently, Africa should no longer remain on the sidelines of international decision-making processes or be content to passively endure the adverse consequences.

As part of its institutional process to implement NEPAD, the African Union has put in place a Planning and Coordinating Agency to replace the NEPAD secretariat, thereby signalling the effective transition from the awareness-raising stage to those of carrying out regional and continent-wide projects and of integrating NEPAD into the Union's structures. That integration-based approach can ensure greater effectiveness in taking responsibility for programmes and activities and in encouraging our development partners to fully honour their commitments with regard to the implementation of NEPAD.

NEPAD as an African strategy for sustainable development and the Peer Review Mechanism established by it to strengthen good governance and the rule of law in the continent are major assets in the annals of Africa's substantial achievements. The Peer Review Mechanism is continuing to strengthen its position as a tool to promote good governance in Africa. More than 30 African countries have adhered to it to date, and 14 have been examined. Algeria was among the first African countries to voluntarily submit itself to the Peer Review Mechanism, reflecting our desire to enshrine good governance in all areas.

Also, in spite of the gaps and obstacles yet to be overcome, Africa is today in a position submit a very respectable report on the results it has achieved in the various priority areas.

Key sectors such as agriculture, the environment, basic infrastructure and information and telecommunication technologies are now the subject of ongoing attention in Africa. Projects in those areas require significant financing, which African economies can only partially mobilize. Infrastructure investment needs in Africa amount to $93 billion annually, while the continent is only able to devote $45 billion a year to them.

The fight against pandemic diseases is among the priorities of African leaders and has been integrated into NEPAD strategies. Malaria continues to kill nearly 1 million Africans every year. It also affects millions of people, most of them pregnant women and young children. In addition, the costs in terms of investment losses amount to some $12 billion. Algeria welcomes the initiative by some African countries to launch the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, which is intended to complement efforts to combat that disease at the highest level of international, national and local policies and strategies. Its success will depend upon the degree of involvement of African countries in implementing it, but above all on the type of assistance to be provided by development partners.

In addition, significant progress has been made in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, thanks to the fact that many countries have honoured their commitment to devote 10 per cent of their budgets to agriculture.

Moreover, the information and telecommunications technologies action plan for Africa was firmly supported at the African Union Summit held in Kampala in 2010.

The support of the international community to African countries nevertheless continues to be insufficient, especially in view of the marked backwardness resulting from the continent's long marginalization from the world economy and the major challenges to be overcome in the various sectors. My delegation is convinced that relaunching sustained economic growth on the African continent will depend upon the implementation of a strengthened partnership with development partners in which the reforms undertaken by African countries are matched by sustained support from developed countries.

Developed countries must take concrete steps to relaunch African economies. Such steps include facilitating access to their markets, especially for agricultural products, so as to increase Africa's participation in world trade. They must also honour their commitments with regard to official development assistance (ODA), especially with regard to devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to ODA, as well as commitments made in more restricted forums such as the Group of Eight.

Other measures by developed countries should include encouraging more foreign direct investment flows to African countries with a view to relaunching economic growth, creating jobs and contributing to poverty reduction. There should be debt relief or cancellation for least developed African countries.

In conclusion, Algeria would like to express its appreciation for the contributions and commitment shown by numerous partners, which have made it possible to make progress in the areas of good governance and sustainable development. We call for greater such efforts.

Mr. Reuben (Israel): At the outset, Israel would like to congratulate the President on his election. We look forward to his successful stewardship of the work of the General Assembly. I would also like to thank him for convening this important debate.

Israel welcomes the Secretary-General's eighth consolidated progress report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/65/167). The report raises important issues and highlights significant projects that are positively affecting the development trajectory of African countries. In the wake of the Millennium Development Goals summit, today's debate offers new opportunities to home in on the development challenges unique to African countries and to recommit ourselves to programmes that will be successful in the region.

Israel has long-standing ties to Africa. In fact, Theodor Herzl, the father of Zionism, wrote in his 1902 book *Altneuland*, "once I have witnessed the redemption of the Jews, my people, I wish also to assist in the redemption of the Africans". Many of our strong cooperative relationships in the region began in 1958 during an historic visit to the newly independent States of Africa by Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister at the time. Recently, Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman visited a number of African countries as part of a drive to deepen Israel's commitment to development on the continent.

Israel's international development agency, MASHAV, is at the heart of our development efforts in Africa. MASHAV works closely with many partners on the continent in areas such as sustainable development, public health, food security, education and gender equality, while placing significant focus on the Millennium Development Goals. Allow me to share with the Assembly some of Israel's development efforts on the continent.

Israel is providing its significant expertise in the area of agriculture to partner with African countries to fight hunger and extreme poverty. As an arid country with a climate similar to many regions in Africa, Israel continues to offer lessons learned during its own development through a number of programmes and partnerships. One such venture, the Techno-agricultural Innovation for Poverty Alleviation, trains farmers in the use of simple and inexpensive techniques, such as crop rotation and drip irrigation, in order to maximize output on formerly overused or arid land.

In addition, Israel recently launched a trilateral partnership with the Governments of Germany and Ethiopia to assist Ethiopian farmers to adopt advanced agricultural practices, which will help to ensure sustainable development and improve food security. That trilateral collaboration highlights the significant value of diversifying partnerships.

In implementing its co-sponsored biennial resolution entitled "Agricultural Technology for Development", Israel has been working to further develop and expand such partnerships. The resolution calls upon Member States to cooperate and collaborate to develop and implement sustainable agricultural technologies as a means to combat poverty and hunger and to ensure better production and safer land use. In pursuing the call of the resolution, Israel has been working to ensure that agricultural technologies reach areas where they can have the greatest development impact.

Empowering women in Africa is essential for achieving a model of truly sustainable development. Israel is engaged in a number of efforts to that end. We are promoting women's entrepreneurship in small-scale agriculture by providing specialized courses for women across the continent and by improving education through teacher-training programmes.

Israel is also working to empower women by improving prenatal and neonatal care through a concept known as *tipat chalav*, which means "drop of milk" in Hebrew. Currently being implemented in Kumasi, Ghana, the *tipat chalav* model includes the use of community-based prenatal and healthy-baby clinics staffed primarily by public health nurses. This model has demonstrated dramatic improvements in health, including reductions in the rates of infant and maternal mortality.

In the area of health, Israel is also closely engaged in the fight to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa. Israel's role in that effort includes training health-care professionals in treating HIV and managing educational programmes to promote sexual health among adolescents, who are at the greatest risk of contracting the disease.

Israel recognizes the need to devote further attention to these matters moving forward. To that end, Israel is marking International Development Day by organizing a round-table discussion on the challenges of development.

The challenges before us are great, but Israel remains deeply committed to collaborating with other nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Israel recognizes that pursuing the Goals will not only bring enhanced peace and security for all, but will also affirm the timeless value of *tikkun olam*, a Jewish principle that mandates us to repair the world, to help those in need and to better the lives of those around the globe.

Mr. Charan Das Mahant (India): I am honoured to speak on behalf of India at today's joint debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his reports on the items under discussion (A/65/152, A/65/165), including the eighth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support for NEPAD (A/65/167).

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development articulates both a vision and a strategic socio-economic development framework for Africa. It reflects the commitment of African countries to undertake their own development programmes and the commitment of the international community to support those efforts.

India applauds the progress achieved by African countries in the implementation of the NEPAD priorities through the various multisectoral initiatives. We further welcome the integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into the structures and processes of the African Union through, inter alia, the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as a technical body of the African Union.

Despite those positive developments, serious challenges remain to be addressed before the African continent can achieve sustainable peace and prosperity. Most African countries remain off track with respect to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Conflict, poverty, lack of adequate nutrition and other malaises continue to shackle the tremendous potential of the African people.

It is universally acknowledged that addressing Africa's development needs and challenges requires unwavering commitment and resolute action not only from within Africa, but, equally important, from outside the continent by its partners. That must take place through sustained cooperation that includes the transfer of resources and technology and an enabling international environment. The role of the international community in Africa's development is indispensable and crucial.

That is recognized in a number of multilateral and bilateral initiatives directed at Africa. It is also recognized in a number of international conferences and summits, including the General Assembly's recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals that brought into sharp focus the special needs of Africa and the urgency of galvanizing international efforts. It is further articulated in a number of declarations, resolutions and plans of action in support of Africa to which the international community has pledged adherence.

In spite of the commitments and initiatives, there is a gap between promise and delivery on the part of the international community that needs to be addressed on a priority basis.

First and foremost, NEPAD can succeed only if the global partnership delivers in terms of resources. The picture on the ground is not inspiring. It is

estimated that official development assistance to Africa reached $44 billion in 2009. That leaves a shortfall of $16 billion relative to the target set by the Group of Eight at the Gleneagles summit in 2005. We would like to stress the importance of the urgent fulfilment of the commitments made by the G-8 in 2005.

India's own links with Africa go back a long way and are anchored in a history of contact and friendship of civilizations across the Indian Ocean. Our friendship and cooperation have been further strengthened through a common journey of anti colonial struggle and post-colonial nation-building.

Today, our long and historic relationship has evolved into a sustainable and enduring partnership that embraces the entire spectrum of human engagement. In the economic realm, it translates into a vibrant economic partnership that covers, inter alia, infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health, food security, development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, and information and communications technology.

India has so far extended over $3 billion in concessional lines of credit to countries in Africa. They have been used in projects as prioritized by the African countries themselves. During the India-Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008 in New Delhi, India decided to extend additional lines of credit of $5.4 billion over the next five years, including an allocation of $300 million to be utilized by the African Union in support of NEPAD objectives. That line of credit is in addition to the $200 million line of credit extended to NEPAD in 2002, most of which stands utilized.

At the same time, India proposed to undertake projects against grants in excess of $500 million over the next five to six years. They are being implemented in consultation with our African partners. India is also unilaterally making available duty-free and quota-free market access for goods from 34 least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa. That covers 94 per cent of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5 per cent of global exports of all LDCs.

The Pan African e-Network Project is another far-reaching initiative undertaken by India in Africa. It aims at sharing our expertise in health care and education. It symbolizes India's commitment to transferring skills and technology to Africa by bridging the digital divide within the framework of South-South cooperation. It will connect 53 African countries into one network through satellites, fibre optics and wireless links to provide tele-education, tele-medicine and voice and video conference facilities. We expect the project to bring major benefits to Africa in capacity-building.

India has also been at the forefront of contributing to Africa's human resource development efforts. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme has benefited thousands of experts and students from Africa who have been coming to India since 1964 for training courses at professional institutions. Apart from providing experts, we are also providing training to African personnel in diverse fields, such as agriculture and agro-processing, entrepreneurship development, tool design, small business creation, the promotion of rural industries and information technology. In addition, several thousand African students are currently studying in Indian universities and colleges.

The President returned to the Chair.

Through our long-term involvement in peacekeeping efforts on the continent over the past six decades, India has also been a steadfast contributor to the maintenance of peace and security in conflict-torn regions of Africa. Presently, India has over 7,000 peacekeepers serving in Africa, including a 4,000-strong contingent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. India's first all-female police unit serves with distinction in Liberia. It has earned laurels for its pioneering role in this regard which, in addition to normal peacekeeping, has included their successful outreach to vulnerable sections of society, particularly women and children.

India is steadfastly committed to the peace, stability and socio economic development of Africa. India and Africa are joined together in a common quest for sustainable economic growth and development. The Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation, which was adopted during the landmark India-Africa Forum Summit held in Delhi in April 2008, contain a blueprint for further intensifying the engagement between India and Africa. We will continue to accord the highest priority to furthering our multidimensional partnership with Africa, which encompasses priority sectors integral to the developmental goals of Africa.

Mr. Iziraren (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I am pleased to take part in these discussions on development in the African continent, and I thank the Secretary-General for the quality of his reports on the subject (A/65/152, A/65/165 and A/65/167).

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Malawi on behalf of the African Group.

The countries of Africa have shown genuine will and have established bold policies leading to real gains in solidifying democratic progress and the realization of development goals. That will and those policies have nevertheless come face to face with the several crises that have arisen in recent years. African countries have been unable to mobilize the necessary resources to carry out the reform that has been started. What is more, delivery on the pledges made by their development partners has considerably dipped at the very moment when Africa especially needs continued international assistance. Much of what has been achieved towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has thus been set back by the immediate effects of the various crises and by diminished aid from partners. In addition to those challenges we must also add climate change, which will certainly affect the development prospects of the continent.

The economic difficulties brought on by the financial crisis have adversely affected African economies and significantly limited their ability to finance their development. Mean economic growth rates in Africa in 2008 and 2009 — 4.5 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively — and the estimated 2010 rate of 4.3 per cent are still well below the 7 per cent considered necessary for African nations to achieve their development goals. Moreover, financial flows to the continent, whether official development assistance or foreign direct investment, have not reached the level necessary to sustain the efforts of African countries or to meet their development needs.

In terms of official development assistance, it should be noted that the economic report on Africa for 2010 emphasizes that aid to Africa, which grew by only 11 per cent in 2008, could experience a decrease in 2010, and that anticipated reduction in aid flow endangers the achievement of the MDGs in the poor countries of the continent.

Africa has also been among the continents most affected by retrenchment in foreign direct investment, with a reduction of 35 per cent from 2008 to 2009. It is not by chance, then, that Africa, which receives only about 2 per cent of total foreign direct investment, lags behind in achieving the MDGs. Establishing an environment conducive to investment and entrepreneurship in Africa is therefore critical. To promote investment on the continent, where the need to fight poverty is overwhelming, Morocco proposes the convening, in the framework of the General Assembly, of a high-level meeting on investment in Africa.

Any delay in concluding the Doha Round trade agreements can only penalize African economies, whose participation in international trade hardly exceeded 3.2 per cent in 2008. Putting in place a multilateral trading system that honours the centrality of development and is more favourable to African countries is of vital importance. Improving access to markets for African countries, while necessary, is nonetheless insufficient. Any progress in market access must be accompanied by aid focused on strengthening African countries' capacity for both production and trade.

Moreover, Africa, whose contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is negligible — barely over 4 per cent — is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Agriculture, the driving force of most African economies, making up around 50 per cent of the continent's exports and 21 per cent of its gross domestic product, is especially vulnerable to climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has projected a 50 per cent reduction in rain-fed agriculture in Africa, very likely provoking serious socio economic tensions in the countries of the continent. In that regard, the international community is clearly called on to redouble its efforts to make available to Africa the means necessary to adapt to climate change and to attenuate its social and economic impact.

The outcome document of the Meeting on the MDGs (resolution 65/1) underlined that Africa should receive greater attention. It also constituted a call for the pledges of aid made to the continent to be honoured, inasmuch as assistance is currently not at the levels that have been pledged. Given these

circumstances, it is of the utmost urgency for development partners to honour their commitments to Africa on official development assistance, starting with the pledges made at the Gleneagles Summit.

Morocco welcomes the Muskoka Initiative, which was launched by the Group of Eight to accelerate progress in attaining the Millennium Goals on infant mortality and maternal health in the next five years. We believe that implementing the Initiative is of the highest importance.

While the economic crisis should not be an excuse for not honouring pledges for African development, new instruments of international aid should receive careful attention. The search for innovative financing, which has proven very promising, would allow us to supplement traditional financing. Innovative initiatives undertaken thus far have proven ever more successful, encouraging more exploration. Ensuring regular and efficient delivery of the commitments made to Africa is of critical importance so as to allow the continent to achieve its development objectives.

In that regard, Morocco thanks the Secretary-General for his report on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165). The report informs us of important aspects of follow up on pledges of aid to the continent and also contains incisive proposals for an improved follow up mechanism that would allow us to better evaluate the effectiveness of development aid to Africa.

His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, in his speech at the Millennium Development Goals summit held on 20 and 21 September, underlined that Morocco had "made human development and the achievement of the MDGs the core of a practical, innovative South-South cooperation policy, especially with regard to sister African nations" (*A/65/PV.4, p. 6*).

Human development is one of the key thrusts of Morocco's cooperation with its African partners, by which we have established and carried out specific projects in areas with a direct bearing on the achievement of the MDGs, such as health, drinking water, agriculture and irrigation techniques, fisheries, food security, combating locusts, infrastructure, training, transport and housing. The private sector in Morocco also promotes such cooperation through the investment and expertise that it brings, making an enormous contribution to the ongoing economic impact.

In terms of training, more than 9,000 foreign students from 73 countries, including 37 African nations, are now studying in Morocco in public post-secondary, technical and vocational institutions. More than 80 per cent of those students receive scholarships from the Moroccan Government.

With respect to promoting trade within Africa, Morocco, under a royal decree of 2000, has taken the decision to open its national markets to exports from Africa's least developed countries, free of excise duties and restrictions. That decision has had a positive impact on exports from such countries to Morocco. Also thanks to royal directives, Morocco has forgiven the bilateral debt of a number of African countries on several occasions. Emergency humanitarian aid is another priority for His Majesty the King, who has responded to every appeal for assistance during disasters.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize Morocco's ongoing commitment to developing the African continent. I reiterate my country's call for the establishment of a genuine global partnership for Africa that is capable of dealing with the challenges facing the continent and that includes a specific timetable for implementation and an effective follow-up mechanism.

Mr. Ndiaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): It is my pleasant duty to congratulate you, Mr. President, and to wish you the greatest success in your presidency. On behalf of Senegal, I would also like to thank you for convening this important debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as to express my delegation's thanks to the Secretariat and the Secretary-General for the quality of the reports before us (A/65/152, A/65/165, A/65/167) and the relevant recommendations they contain.

NEPAD, based on an African culture of development, is the bearer of a new concept of the nature and orientation of the relationship Africa should have with the rest of the world, that is, one based on a true partnership going forward. This ambitious programme involves not only Africa, which bears primary responsibility for its own development, but also calls for action by the rest of the international community to support our continent in its untiring

efforts to free itself from the trap of endemic underdevelopment.

It has been said today that during the first nine years of NEPAD's existence, Africa has made significant progress on many fronts, particularly in the areas of eliminating hot spots and returning to economic growth, good governance and democracy, as well as promoting human rights and gender equality. We must, however, agree that despite encouraging signs mentioned in the Secretary-General's report (A/65/167), progress continues to be slow and difficulties continue to be a drag on our continent's future. Indeed, in many other areas the picture is a sombre one, aggravated by the recent crises that have kept Africa mired in inextricable difficulties and put it at a crossroads in its quest for development.

Even more disturbing and serious are the soaring statistics on poverty, which now affects almost two fifths of Africa's population; HIV infections, afflicting more than 20 million people; malaria, with nine deaths out of 10, on a global scale, occurring in Africa; and on infant and maternal mortality. To these recurring problems are added the familiar litany of other factors that continue to vex the international debate on development. Among others, we have rising famine and unemployment, farming subsidies that severely undermine free trade, an intolerable debt burden and the energy crisis, which results in collateral damage such as abrupt, uncontrolled fluctuations in oil prices. Clearly, Africa will have a tough time getting its economy to take off if it cannot leave behind these innumerable constraints.

It is by respecting its promises and its consequent financing efforts that the international community can really help Africa, as the Secretary-General has called for. Today, the implementation of NEPAD's sectoral priorities has opened up several areas whose success requires genuine international support. As one example, according to the World Bank, Africa's infrastructure needs have now reached $93 billion, while the continent itself can provide only $45 billion. That is just one of many possible examples that show that the hoped-for effects of the global partnership have been slow to reach the level of declared expectations and ambitions. As I noted previously, the need for international support does not diminish in any way the primary responsibility that each State bears for implementing its own development.

With regard to the report, Senegal welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendations, which call on African countries to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities to carry out NEPAD's regional projects. Almost a decade since NEPAD's launch, the integration of its executive secretariat into the African Union and the creation, in February, of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency are a response to African countries' firm determination to strengthen their institutional capacity. That desire is also reflected in the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism, which is a powerful instrument for promoting good governance; the 10 per cent increase in public agricultural spending, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration; and the effort to protect the environment through the ambitious project to build the Green Wall, which will cross the Sahel from Dakar to Djibouti.

Development in Africa of necessity requires the establishment of stability and lasting peace. In this regard, we welcome the return of our neighbour Guinea-Bissau to constitutional order, as well as the democratization process that has unfolded in our sister republic of Guinea, which is preparing to organize the second round of its presidential elections in the coming weeks. Senegal, which has an unshakable faith in the genius of the Guinean people, reiterates its unswerving support in brotherhood and friendship for Guinea at this delicate stage in its journey towards stability, harmony and progress.

My country is likewise pleased with the upcoming presidential election to be held in Côte d'Ivoire. We have no doubt that this great African people, in a glorious surge of patriotism, will do what they must to demonstrate once more to the watching world their capacity to outdo themselves, as well as their attachment to the cardinal virtues of democracy, justice and peace, so dear to the founding father of the Ivorian State, former President Houphouët Boigny. We express the same desire for peace and restored stability for the Niger, Madagascar, Somalia and the Sudan, which all deserve the constant attention of the United Nations for a definitive return to peace.

In her well-known work entitled *What if Africa Rejected Development?*, about which the most informed analysts on issues of African development are divided, writer Axelle Kabou asks sceptically about Africa's future while also questioning all the actors involved. For us in Senegal the answer is no. No, we

are not rejecting development. Africa, that strangled continent, to paraphrase René Dumont, is moving with great determination and selfless abnegation to emerge from the labyrinth of poverty. However, Africa is running up against major obstacles, both of its own making as well as caused by outside forces. The only way for Africa to extricate itself from that situation is through a framework of a genuine, sincere, fair and equitable partnership, far removed from seldom respected promises and commitments.

During a ministerial meeting on the least developed countries held recently in Lisbon, Portugal, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Kandeh Yumkella expressed his astonishment at the fact that "Africa is both the richest and the poorest continent" on Earth with, inter alia, 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves and 30 to 40 per cent of its bauxite reserves. That speaks to the urgency of the need for the international community to correct this major contradiction and to seriously work for Africa to economically take off.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The priority given today to African issues in the work of the United Nations and other international forums, including the Group of Eight (G-8) and the Group of 20, is absolutely appropriate. On the African continent, developments are unfolding that will define not only the face of Africa for the long term but also the general progress of humankind in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The search for effective solutions aimed at ensuring sustainable socio-economic development in Africa was justifiably considered a key challenge at September's High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs.

We have managed to achieve some positive results in the past five years. At the same time, there is a serious delay in implementing the MDGs in areas such as reducing child and maternal mortality, curbing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and achieving health and sanitation targets. It is important that, in the summit outcome document (resolution 65/1), we clearly reiterated our commitment to achieving the MDGs in Africa, which is disproportionately suffering from the negative consequences of the global financial and economic crisis, from food and energy insecurity and from climate change.

One of the critical challenges to the timely achievement of the MDGs in Africa is to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Russia has consistently championed this African Union initiative, which reflects the desire of African States to independently determine their future and take on major responsibility for ensuring peace and security, managing the economy, the rational use of natural resources, combating corruption and effectively utilizing the funds allocated for development assistance.

President Dmitry Medvedev, congratulating African leaders on Africa Day, welcomed their steady progress towards deepening political and economic integration within the African Union and other organizations, calling it a credible instrument for dealing with the many challenges facing the region.

The United Nations system has an important role with regard to international support for NEPAD. We are pleased to note the progress achieved by the Organization in this area, as well as the uninterrupted and coherent nature of its work in promoting the implementation of the goals of the partnership. Mobilizing financial resources in support of NEPAD is of critical importance. Unfortunately, in spite of the increase in assistance to Africa in the past few years, the volume of assistance still does not meet the commitments made.

Russia will continue to make its contribution to international efforts in this area. To date, our country has written off $20 billion worth of our African partners' debt. Consultations on establishing a mechanism for debt-for-aid swaps are being conducted with Benin, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The total forecasted write-off is about $547 million. We anticipate a Russian contribution of $50 million to the Rapid Social Response Multi Donor Trust Fund to support vulnerable countries, especially sub Saharan African States, to provide assistance in overcoming the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis. Countries in that region are receiving targeted humanitarian assistance. The Russian gross domestic product contribution of the past two years has been used to help Guinea, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Russia's financial participation is continuing in other Africa-focused efforts in the G-8 and under World Bank programmes and multilateral international initiatives on health, education and poverty eradication.

African countries also enjoy wide-ranging preferential trade treatment. Traditional export goods from least developed countries are not assessed Russian import or customs tariffs. Trade with Russia has exceeded $6 billion.

Programmes are continuing to assist in the training of staff. At present, Russian institutions of higher learning host more than 4,500 African students, about half of whom receive financial support from our federal budget. African students were allocated 750 Russian State scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Meeting the challenges of socio economic progress and increasing the level of well-being in Africa can be promoted as well by developing investment partnerships with Russian companies. The scope of such partnerships has increased significantly in a whole range of economic sectors, including developing oil and gas deposits, extracting minerals and building hydroelectric and atomic energy facilities, as well as in more sophisticated fields such as outer space, high-tech astrophysics and nuclear research. The volume of Russian investment in Angola, Algeria, Gabon, Guinea, Egypt, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria and South Africa is in the billions of dollars.

Russia attaches great importance to implementing the goals of the Decade to Roll Back Malaria. By the end of this year, we will have completed the payment of our contribution of $20 million for the implementation of the World Bank programme for malaria control in Africa. We have also set aside $4 million for the World Health Organization's programme to that end.

In that regard, Russia's contributions have been focused on Zambia and Mozambique and have been used for the purchase of about 300,000 long-acting mosquito nets. The overall efforts of the international community have meant that in Zambia, for example, malaria is no longer the major cause of early infant mortality. During the recent meeting of the third Voluntary Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Russia stated its intention to contribute up to $60 million for the period 2011-2013, bringing our aggregate support to the Fund to $310 million.

We value our multifaceted ties with Africa, our reliable and time-tested partner. Russia's policy is to focus on further developing its interaction with Africa to make it long-term and strategic. President Dmitry Medvedev reiterated that policy in his July address to African leaders, in which he especially emphasized the ever-broadening nature, new positive momentum and diversified nature of our cooperation.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.